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A new lane in Chicago politics?

Movement grows for more bike infrastructure

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Rebecca Resman's biking education group had long focused on teaching kids to safely ride bikes, hosting parent forums, family group rides and bike-to-school days.

But then three children were killed in car crashes last June, including 2-year-old Raphael "Rafi" Cardenas atop a mini-scooter in Lincoln Square and 11-year-old Ja'Lon James biking to the store to get milk in Lawndale. The family of 3-year-old Lily Grace Shambrook, who was riding on the back of her mother's bike in Uptown when she was killed in a semi-truck crash, plans to file a lawsuit Tuesday against the companies and drivers involved with her death, Clifford Law Offices said.

Chicago Family Biking had to more aggressively advocate for safe biking, founder Resman decided.

"If you're not doing everything you can to prevent that, you got to reevaluate," she said.

The group intensified its focus on Chicago's bike policies and infrastructure. Resman helped organize a coalition of bike and mobility advocacy groups, "Safe Streets for All. Transit that Works," that launched in December with plans to make biking and transit center stage in the city's upcoming elections.

It's a shift happening across the city: pro-bike activists becoming more involved in Chicago politics. They range from gritty demonstrators in newly formed groups to professionals in established nonprofits, but they share a vision of radically re-imagined streets they hope will make biking safer and easier.

New bike infrastructure projects are set to roll out faster than ever across Chicago and political wins for cyclist groups are mounting, including City Council's unanimous approval in December of 40th Ward Ald. Andre Vasquez's ordinance to more regularly and severely penalize drivers for parking in bike lanes with two added

Turn to Bikes, Page 4

Shari Williams hugs her 8-year-old daughter, Maya, at the end of their visit to the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center in Chicago on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

SEEKING SERVICE AND REFLECTION

Call to honor King with bold action

Daughter says legacy needs full embrace to bring about real change

By Bill Barrow
Associated Press

ATLANTA — America has honored Martin Luther King Jr. with a federal holiday for nearly four decades yet still hasn't fully embraced and acted on the lessons from the slain civil rights leader, his youngest daughter said Monday.

The Rev. Bernice King, who leads The King Center in Atlanta, said leaders — especially politicians — too often cheapen her father's legacy into a "comfortable and convenient King" offering easy platitudes.

"We love to quote King in and around the holiday. ... But then we refuse to live King 365 days of the year," she declared at the commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her father once preached.

The service, sponsored by the center and held at Ebenezer annually, headlined observances of the 38th federal King holiday. King, gunned down in Memphis in 1968 as he advocated for better pay and working conditions for the city's sanitation workers, would have celebrated his 94th birthday Sunday.

Her voice rising and falling in cadences similar to her father's, Bernice King bemoaned institutional and individual racism, economic and health care

Turn to Legacy, Page 8

People attend a ceremony Monday at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington. **ANDREW HARNIK/AP**

'It's so important to really delve into your history so you know where your roots are, and to also not let history repeat itself'

By Madeline Buckley, Jake Sheridan and Adriana Perez
Chicago Tribune

Martin Luther King Jr. slowly appeared as Jessica Patterson, a Chicago area artist, daubed paint on a large mural at a Bronzeville school and directed community members to fill in the outlines of his depiction standing amid children.

Alexander Perez, 31, took charge of some blue paint and followed Patterson's instructions as the mural — that will hang in the gym at the Donoghue Campus of the UChicago Charter School — began to pop with bright colors.

"I'll do the best I can to not mess this up," said Perez, who lives in Bronzeville. "Who knows, maybe my kid will come to school here, and I can say, I did the baby blue part."

Perez was among hundreds of people across Chicago who ventured out to perform service projects or find educational opportunities to honor the legacy of King, the civil rights leader who championed racial equity and protested discrimination.

Those who participated said they viewed Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed on the third Monday in January to honor his birthday of Jan. 15, not simply as a day off school or work but as a call for service and reflection on the activism and teachings of King.

Natia Brownlee, 39, of Roseland, brought her

Turn to King, Page 2

Fishermen try their luck in Lake Michigan near The Bush neighborhood in Chicago on Dec. 25, 2021. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Analysis: Freshwater fish much more contaminated

Eating 1 a year can dramatically increase amount of toxic forever chemicals in blood

By Michael Hawthorne
Chicago Tribune

Eating just one freshwater fish a year can dramatically increase the amount of toxic forever chemicals coursing through a person's blood, according to a new study that reflects more than a half-century of pollution contaminating the Great Lakes and rivers nationwide.

The alarming finding is based on an analysis of hundreds of fish caught by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 2013. Though the EPA has concluded some of the chemicals are harmful at any level, the agency hasn't drawn attention to its fish sampling or warned Americans they could be in danger.

Nearly every fish tested by the EPA was tainted with perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, a forever chemical used for decades in Scotchgard stain-resistant fabrics, firefighting foam and food packaging manufactured by Minnesota-based 3M.

PFOS builds up in human blood, doesn't break down in the environment and triggers health problems such as liver damage, impaired fertility, immune system disorders, thyroid disease, increased cholesterol levels and reduced vaccine effectiveness. Long-term exposure also might cause cancer.

"These findings point to the urgent need to eliminate more releases of these chemicals into the environment," said David Andrews, a senior scientist at the nonprofit Environmental Working Group and one of

Turn to Fish, Page 2

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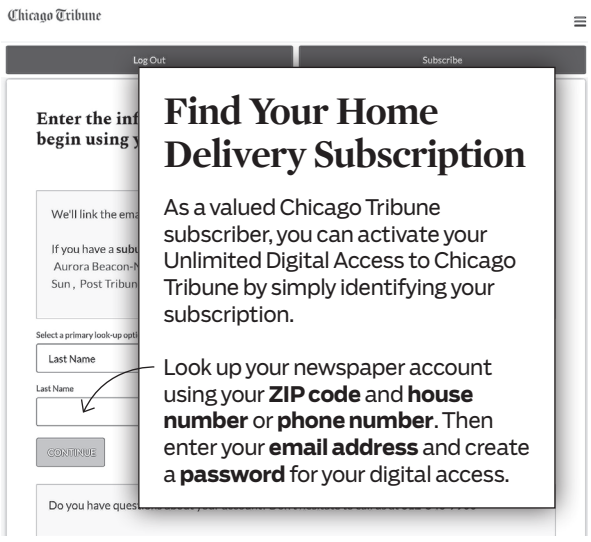
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Tribune books

"Dinner at Home" Cooking at home doesn't have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto Parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomato-olive relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

"Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America's Most Notorious Gangster." Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune's archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

"Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living" For over a decade, Amy Dickinson has been the Tribune's signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to the empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips that Dickinson has been distilling for years.

"Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change." Clarence Page's newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column's first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner's columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

"10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything." You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that's just one of the obscure facts you'll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

"Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything" How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide.

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King

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two boys, 11 and 7, to participate in the UChicago Charter School's day of service, among about 450 people who signed up to do projects at different campuses, organizers said. Waiting for the event to get launched, Brownlee and the boys sat in an auditorium that the class of 1969 dedicated to King, the year after he was assassinated April 4, 1968.

"They understand how he stood for peace, how he helped our community," Brownlee said of the conversations she's had with her children about King.

Participants at the UChicago Charter School's Donoghue Campus broke into groups, with some helping paint the mural while others put together bags of treats for teachers and assembled brown bag lunches to be distributed at shelters.

Over at the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, celebrations were winding down midafternoon after a busy day that saw almost 500 visitors come and go, according to receptionist Anthony Cole. "Unless people know from which they have come, they don't know where they are, and they certainly don't know where they should go," Cole said. "We represent thousands of ancestors that came before us, their dreams, hopes and wishes and prayers."

Visitors took pictures as they walked through the museum after a morning full of activities such as children's story time, a "Boycott" film screening and activity tables. Local leaders including U.S. Rep. Jonathan Jackson and U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth made an appearance to tour the space.

Outside the museum, a 1950s bus provided by Pace remained parked throughout the day to commemorate Rosa Parks' role in the Montgomery bus boycott.

Tamica Clark and her 10-year-old son, Amari, visited Chicago for the day from Munster, Indiana. She first heard of the DuSable's celebration on the news and decided to bring her son along so he could learn about his ancestors, she said.

"It's so important to really delve into your history so you know where your roots are, and to also not let history repeat itself," Clark said. "Sometimes our kids don't understand that education wasn't always a given for a lot of us, we had to fight for it. And Martin Luther King, he did just that, for our kids to be able to have an education."

They participated in a virtual reality exhibit at the museum called "The March" that immersed them in the historic 1963 March on Washington and King's "I Have A Dream" speech. It was as if they were walking along with protesters and listening to him in real time, Clark said.

"It's visceral. It's so real," she said, adding that hearing stories from people who knew King firsthand, seeing artifacts once touched by ancestors and participating in immersive experiences is more engaging than social media for kids.

Inside the Chicago History Museum, visitors checked out a documentary screening, community fair and photo exhibit focused on the civil rights leader's time in Chicago.

Tiffany Rogers of Hyde Park stood in front two images showing the destruction caused by the 1968 Chicago riots that followed his assassination, carefully discussing the photos with her 5-, 7- and 11-year-old children. "As African Americans, as Chicagoans, as Americans, as this next generation, to me it's important to make sure they understand their history," Rogers said. "Because so much of it is repeated."

On the city's West Side, a group taking a racial justice-focused bike tour despite the rain stopped in front of the Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church, the North Lawndale church where King preached while living in Chicago. Dozens of volunteers were sharing free clothes, meat and produce with people in need, as the church community does every Monday.

At Stone Temple's annual King celebration, Pastor Chris Harris of Bronzeville's Bright Star Church spoke from the same lectern King once sermonized behind.

He raised the civil rights leader's idea of "beloved community" as he challenged the crowd sitting in the historic church's pews to fight poverty, hate and violence in Chicago by reaching across the city's divisive, invisible lines.

"It's not enough for us to come together once a year and link arms and sing the song 'We Shall Overcome,'" Harris said, "until we come over into each other's communities and look out for one another."

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Marcus Robinson and other volunteers paint a classroom purple on Monday at Reavis Elementary Math and Science Specialty School in Bronzeville during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Akoye Simms, 7, stands in the back of a 1949 GMC bus parked outside the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Monday in Chicago. On Dec. 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, a Black woman, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white person in the same model of bus, resulting in the Montgomery bus boycott, led by Martin Luther King Jr. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Fish

from Page 1

the authors of the new study.

"We don't want this problem to get any worse, especially knowing how long it's going to take for it to get better."

A single serving of freshwater fish during a year is equivalent to drinking water laden with 48 parts per trillion of PFOS for a month, Andrews and his colleagues concluded in their peer-reviewed study, published Tuesday in the journal Environmental Research.

To put that number into context, the nationwide median of PFOS in drinking water is estimated to be less than 5 ppt. The highest concentration detected in Chicago drinking water so far is 2.8 ppt.

In June the EPA announced there is effectively no safe exposure to PFOS and a related chemical, PFOA.

Exposure from eating fish is of particular concern for Native Americans, certain immigrant communities and low-income Americans who depend on lakes and rivers for a significant portion of their diet, Andrews noted, citing other studies.

Freshwater fish in the United States appear to be significantly more contaminated than seafood.

The median concentration of forever chemicals in the EPA testing was 278 times higher than what the Food and Drug Administration found during the past four years in saltwater fish, shrimp, lobster, clams and oysters.

The highest level of PFOS detected in Great Lakes fish — 64,400 parts per trillion — came from white perch caught in Lake Erie near Monroe, Michigan, a Chicago Tribune review of EPA data found.

Yellow perch in Lake Michigan near Holland, Michigan, and Whiting were tainted with 22,900 ppt and 12,500 ppt, respectively. The level in walleye caught off the Door County peninsula in Wisconsin: 11,500 ppt.

EPA sampling in the Great Lakes during 2013 through 2015 did not include fish from Illinois waters. But in 2010 the agency found 19,000 ppt of PFOS in brown trout caught off North Avenue Beach in Chicago.

Disturbing levels also have been detected in the nation's rivers and streams.

Northwest of Madison, the EPA found 74,200 ppt in smallmouth bass caught in the Wisconsin River. Upstream from Cave-in-Rock in deep southern Illinois, channel catfish pulled from the Ohio River had a whopping 135,000 ppt of PFOS.

Closer to Chicago, the agency found 25,500 ppt in channel catfish from the Fox River in Lake Barrington. The level in smallmouth bass from the Kankakee River near Bourbonais: 9,530 ppt.

Unlike other toxic substances such as mercury or PCBs, worrisome concentrations of forever chemicals aren't limited to specific types of fish, EPA data shows. PFOS and related compounds — known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS — bind to fish tissue and can't be cooked or trimmed out.

"Mercury, for example, tends to be higher in bigger, older fish," said Gavin Dehnert, an emerging contaminants researcher at Wisconsin Sea Grant who, along with several Indigenous tribes in the Upper Midwest, recently launched another study of PFAS in the region's lakes, rivers and fish.

"With PFAS you can have high levels in panfish, common carp or smelt, tiny fish that are near the bottom of the food chain."

Andrews speculated one reason the EPA hasn't publicized its test results is because fish are an important source of protein and other nutrients. Burdening Americans with PFAS isn't worth the trade-offs, he said.

EPA officials did not respond to questions Monday, a federal holiday honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

PFAS still aren't regulated in the United States. The Biden administration is proposing to list PFOS and PFOA as hazardous substances under federal law, which would make it easier to force polluters to clean up contaminated sites at their own expense. Other rule-making is expected to establish the first enforceable limits on the chemicals in drinking water.

Updated fish consumption advisories aren't on the administration's agenda, though some states, including Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, caution people to limit or avoid eating certain fish based on PFOS contamination. Illinois officials only recently began surveying the state's lakes and rivers for the forever chemical.

EPA fish sampling in the lower 48 states suggests current advisories aren't protective enough.

Faced with hundreds of lawsuits, 3M announced last month it will stop making all PFAS by 2025, a quarter-century after the company phased out PFOS, PFOA and several related compounds the global conglomerate pioneered after World War II. Scientists are finding replacements for PFOS and PFOA, introduced during the 2000s, are just as harmful, if not more so.

High levels of PFOS still being found in fish shows how persistent the chemical is in the environment.

"People are getting PFAS from so many different places, from their diet and from water," said Christy Remucal, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin who researches forever chemicals but was not involved in the new study.

"You never want to hear that these chemicals whose names you can't pronounce are in the water you're drinking or the fish you're eating. Some people panic and some people decide they can't avoid it, so why worry. That makes communicating the risks very challenging."

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CHICAGOLAND

Aurora restaurateur fed town's appetites, souls

Denise Crosby

Despite the shock of so suddenly losing their father and husband to a heart attack as he was finishing a Friday morning walk with his dog last week, the family of Steven Hernandez decided to keep his Aurora restaurant open that day and through last weekend as a way of paying tribute to this man who was, for so many, a larger than life figure in the community.

It turned out to be the right call, as more than 800 friends, fans and patrons packed inside La Cabana Mexican Cafe on River Street over those three days.

They were drawn together not just through grief but also a shared affection for this longtime Aurora restaurateur who took over the business in 1992 from his father, Esteban, who had opened it 20 years earlier.

According to hundreds of posts on social media, Hernandez and his staff not only served the best Mexican cuisine in the area, he also delivered the biggest smile and warmest handshake to each and every patron who walked through his doors.

Add a "generous heart" to that description, insisted Richard Emilio, who has been a regular at La Cabana with wife Gail for 33 years.

The couple had considered staying home from La Cabana last Friday because "we were so much in shock," said Emilio, who became emotional as we spoke about his good friend who "treated everyone as if they were family" and "was generous to a fault."

Arlene Hawks and her husband, Dick, also drove to the restaurant — on Sunday — after hearing word of the owner's sudden passing. They decided against going inside, however, in part because of how packed the place was, but also because "I was just so sad. I could not go in there without seeing Steve" whose "smile just lit up the world," she said.

Hernandez

"When he was there, it was like being at home ... that's how he made you feel."

The outpouring on social media reflected similar emotions.

Many noted the exceptional Mexican cuisine that was served there, particularly the salsa and chips that not only drew out-of-towners to the restaurant, but the combo was also delivered out of state to those who had grown attached to this menu item, some since childhood.

Comments about the food were frequent. But the main focus was on the owner himself, who was not only the voice and face of the restaurant but also its heart.

"We have traveled the country and La Cabana is the best there is," one fan noted, "not just because the food is fantastic but because Steve always took time to say hi and to talk."

One woman recalled her mom being in the hospital for almost two weeks and "all she wanted was La Cabana" when she finally got back home.

"Steve," the daughter wrote, "gave me her meal for free."

Hawks and others also recalled Hernandez as a big supporter of the Aurora community, including Marmion Academy, where he had been on the board of trustees, and Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Parish, where he attended grade school before graduating from East Aurora High School in 1969.

That commitment to the city ran deep, said his oldest of three sons, Steve Hernandez, which is why even when officials from other towns would try to convince his dad to move the business to their communities, "he wanted to stay in Aurora."

The restaurant "owned him" for many years, said Hernandez, adding that even when the 2012 recession made it hard to keep the business afloat, his dad refused to raise his prices and used his own funds "so he could continue to serve his regular clientele."

In March 2020, as the elder Hernandez and his wife Ophelia dreamed of a Florida beach retirement, he found a buyer and was all set to close on the business when the state declared a pandemic lockdown.

His dad had complained a couple days before his death of shortness of breath but ignored suggestions to see a doctor, noted his son, who is the Fermilab fire chief and works with the Geneva Fire Department and wants to make the point that even those who live their lives thinking of others must also take care of themselves.

Many are wondering about the future of the restaurant that was closed this week as the family prepares for the Sunday visitation at Dieterle Memorial Home in Montgomery and the funeral Mass at 10 a.m. Monday at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

"We are putting our father and husband to rest first," Steve Hernandez told me. "And then we will evaluate" where to go from here.

One thing for certain, however, is how much this man with the big smile and warm handshake and generous heart will be missed.

"We heard it over and over again at the restaurant on Friday," said Richard Emilio. "Steve was loved by so many."

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More health issues for ex-Lincoln-Way district superintendent Wyllie

By Mike Nolan
Daily Southtown

Suffering from ongoing health problems and awaiting trial on federal fraud charges, Lawrence Wyllie, former superintendent of Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, has apparently taken a turn for the worse, a new court filing indicates.

Wyllie was indicted in September 2017, accused of misusing millions in bond proceeds and spending school funds on personal projects, including a dog training school he had built, authorities allege.

In regular status reports to the court, attorneys for the 85-year-old Naperville resident and prosecutors have pointed out Wyllie has, since August 2018, experienced health issues described as "serious and ongoing."

The most recent update, filed Wednesday, says that due to his health issues Wyllie "cannot meaningfully participate in his own defense at this time."

A status hearing in the case scheduled for Friday was scratched and a new hearing set for April 13, according to a filing Friday by U.S. District Court Judge Elaine Bucklo. She instructed attorneys in the case to file an updated status report by April 6.

The joint status reports have not gone into detail regarding Wyllie's health problems, and documents including doctors' reports were previously filed with the court under seal.

Wyllie

The attorneys, in the report filed Wednesday, said they are "not yet in a position to determine how this case will ultimately proceed" and asked the judge to reschedule. At that point, according to the lawyers, they "hope to be better positioned" to lay out the next steps in the case.

They did not respond to messages seeking more information regarding Wyllie's health.

The federal indictment followed a yearlong investigation by the Daily Southtown that exposed questionable financial practices at Lincoln-Way, private uses of public resources and deals benefiting insiders, including Superdog, a dog-training center.

In 1989 Wyllie became Lincoln-Way superintendent and oversaw the district's expansion from a single school in New Lenox to four campuses before retiring in 2013.

Lincoln-Way primarily serves students from New Lenox, Frankfort, Mokena, Manhattan and Tinley Park.

As Will County's population grew during the 1990s, Wyllie pushed hard for a $225 million referendum in 2006 to build two new schools.

The district went on to issue $52 million in bonds in 2006, $123 million in 2007 and $29 million in 2009.

The district began eating up its cash reserves, and as Lincoln-Way's finances atrophied, Wyllie fraudulently used bond funds to conceal the district's true financial condition, prosecutors said at the time he was indicted.

The district's problems did not become apparent to the public until 2015, when Lincoln-Way landed on the state's financial watch list and the school board voted to close Lincoln-Way North High School in Frankfort to cut expenses.

The district remained on the watch list until March 2019.

Between March 2010 and October 2012 Wyllie repeatedly reclassified millions of dollars and transferred bond funds from the U.S. Bank account where the district maintained them to Old Second Bank, which the district used to pay operating expenses, according to the indictment.

Community safety is about investing in the health of the whole community.

Affordable housing, green spaces, living wages, access to healthy food. When we invest in communities, we invest in a future that is healthy and safe for all of us.

Funding provided by the Kaiser Permanente National Community Benefit Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation

Bikes

from Page 1

city departments now able to issue tickets with fines raised to $250.

"We have actual wins coming down the pipe, but just knowing that more politicians and representatives are thinking about this work and understanding the importance of it, that is the biggest win," Resman said.

The Safe Streets for All coalition plans to host a mayoral candidate forum and publicize politicians' bike policy stances. Other organizations inside and outside the coalition focus on building political momentum online or getting people to ride together en masse. Some groups try more combative tactics, airing their frustration with car-dominated streets in driver-stalling protests.

"These groups have really done a tremendous job of organizing and forcing elected officials and people in positions of power to listen to them," mayoral candidate and state Rep. Kambium "Kam" Buckner said.

Buckner, who often commutes by bike and has ridden with activists, said he supports a "bike grid," a core demand for many activists that would remold Chicago roads to create a broad network of bike-prioritized streets with lowered speed limits and bike protection.

Ald. Daniel La Spata, 1st, has also seen an uptick in bike-focused activism in his cyclist-filled Logan Square ward.

"I think it is reaching a fever pitch now because Chicago's cyclists, scooter riders are really beyond tired of seeing people they love get injured, get killed just going about their daily transportation," he said.

La Spata helped the Chicago Department of Transportation add protected bike lanes to roads in his ward and made new bike infrastructure projects an option residents can vote for through participatory budgeting.

Other politicians, including Ald. Matt Martin, 47th, and Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson, who is running for mayor, have joined the call by activists for major bike infrastructure projects to be made across the city.

James Paneral, front, and other participants in the Chicago "Critical Mass" leaderless bicycle ride get ready to leave from Daley Plaza on Dec. 30. The rides takes place on the last Friday of each month. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Bicyclists arrive at the Garfield Park field house on Dec. 8 as several organizations rode in groups to the field house to attend a Chicago Mobility Collaborative forum held by the Chicago Department of Transportation. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Bicyclist Ash Heyer has a Halsted Bike Bus T-shirt draped over her back while attending a forum at the Garfield Park field house on Dec. 8. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The people pushing the pedal

On one cold December night, the CTA bus didn't have a chance of passing the nearly 20 bikers stretched across the entire southbound lane of California Avenue. Neither did the cars, which filed into a line and drove, for a frustrating change, well below the speed limit.

And despite the drivers' honks, the bikers intentionally taking up the road in the "bike bus" organized by activist group Chicago, Bike Grid Now! did not budge: The road was theirs, and they savored it.

Mike Perrino, 27, even played Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" aloud as he pedaled his black Schwinn. The protest clogging the road wasn't just meant to keep bikers safer: It also aimed to get the drivers' attention, he said.

"They don't care about our lives. But they do care when traffic is disrupted," he said as he rode. "We have to give them a new problem to fix."

His frustration stems in part from the troubling frequency with which automobile drivers hit bike riders. CDOT data shows that cyclists reported more than 1,700 crashes in 2022, many caused by cars and leading to hospitalization. Ten bike riders were killed in crashes last year, CDOT said.

The Bike Grid Now group formed in June and hosts regular group rides, outreach campaigns and slow moving, traffic building "bike jams," organizer Rony Islam said. The group wants the city to build a new bike lane network, which would add bike infrastructure to 450 miles, or around 10%, of Chicago's roads on mostly residential streets spaced throughout the city, he said. The grid would work into the already grid-style streets and benefit drivers by creating smoother, safer traffic, Islam added.

"It makes the streets safer for everybody. And that means people who are pedestrians, who are walking, in wheelchairs, no matter how you get around" he said.

Since 2020, the city has annually added nearly 40 miles of bikeway investments, including protected and unprotected bike lanes, trails and greenways. Funding for the investments ramped up for 2022 and 2023, and the city also pledged in June to upgrade bike lanes currently protected by plastic delineators with new concrete barriers, CDOT said.

But the development isn't enough, Islam said. The construction is scattered and not well connected because some aldermen block bike infrastructure development in their wards, he added

"Chicago is like a drop in the bucket. We're getting some bike lanes, but it's really not adequate," Islam said.

Bike Grid Now is just one of the new bike advocacy organizations emerging as Chicago's biking population grows. The number of bike riders in the city has jumped 34% in the last decade before a nationwide pandemic biking boom, CDOT said. Divvy bike and scooter ridership also exploded in recent years, with more than 7 million rides taken in 2022, the department added.

In 2020, activist Courtney Cobb co-founded Better Streets Chicago, a nonprofit that works mostly online to advocate for better walking, biking and transit infrastructure.

The Rogers Park resident, who commutes with an electronic bike and talks of near misses with aggressive drivers, views bike activism as "self preservation."

"I feel like every day you're essentially taking your life in your hands," said Cobb, who also writes for Streetsblog Chicago, a news site focused on bikes and transit.

More residential bike lanes would make Chicago healthier, quieter, less congested and more accessible, Cobb said. But because building it would require the city to remove some parking and repurpose certain streets away from car use, many City Council members don't commit.

"It's a pet project," Cobb said. "Improvements will be made only when it's convenient."

Pro-bike changes to Chicago streets strongly progressed under Mayor Rahm Emanuel before becoming a bigger priority under Mayor Lori Lightfoot, said Jim Merrell, advocacy director for Active Transportation Alliance, a transit, walking and biking advocacy group founded in 1985. Many of the city's grassroots bike advocacy organizations didn't exist five years ago, he added.

"It's a sign of a healthy, robust movement, and exactly the kind of thing we need to build political will," Merrell said.

For decades, hundreds have regularly turned out to the Critical Mass group rides that start at 6 p.m. in Daley Plaza on the last Friday of each month. Chicago Family Biking offers similar "Kidical Masses," where families with younger children can ride in groups around their neighborhoods. The organization hosted 75 family rides last year that often had over 50 riders, Resman said.

While many take part in the popular, calm group rides, other activists opt for more direct protests, like the demonstrators who stalled traffic in August at a busy DuSable Lake Shore Drive intersection along Grant Park.

After a driver killed 41-year-old Gerardo Marciales while riding a Divvy bike crossing the crosswalk near Balbo Drive in February, many drivers continued to run red lights at the intersection, said Perrino, who organized the demonstration where activists with neon vests and red stop signs stood in the crosswalk during red lights to block cars from running the light.

> ***"They don't care about our lives. But they do care when traffic is disrupted. We have to give them a new problem to fix."***
>
> *— Mike Perrino, 27*

Activists and family also placed a white-painted "ghost bike" at the site, a type of memorial that often arises to mark fatal crashes. The fatal crashes are common enough that activists buy ghost bike materials in bulk, said Christina Whitehouse, founder of the bike advocacy group Bike Lane Uprising added.

In a win for the protesters, CDOT installed a pedestrian island and a concrete barrier at the intersection in October to prevent drivers from using a left turn lane to pass straight through red lights. But in December, the ghost bike honoring Marciales' at the site was destroyed by a car.

Whitehouse founded Bike Lane Uprising in 2017 after she was almost run over by a commercial truck driver. The site she built allows local bikers to quickly document bike lane obstructions with photos. It has been used to log 50,000 such obstructions.

In November, the group tweeted a photo of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's car caravan parked in a bike lane in front of a doughnut shop.

"Parking in bike lanes so you can get doughnuts means you value doughnuts over the lives of bicyclists," the account tweeted. The mayor, who had irked bike advocates in May by calling Chicago a "car city," criticized her security detail for parking in the bike lane shortly after the post sparked outrage.

Bikers tend to be civically engaged, Whitehouse said. She thinks they've become an essential faction in city politics.

"You have to get cyclists' votes. We will swing an election," Whitehouse said.

The road ahead

The city's current construction of bike lanes hasn't always taken the needs of Black and brown communities into consideration, said Oboi Reed, founder of Equiticity, a nonprofit focused on racial equity and mobility. He worries some of the groups calling for quickly installed, citywide bike infrastructure might also shut out those communities' unique concerns.

His Equiticity group wants to instead first build out the "social infrastructure" for biking. The group helps get people bikes and organizes regular group rides to convince people biking is good for their communities, Reed said. He supports a bike grid because he believes better bike infrastructure can reduce traffic and interpersonal violence, but wants it to first be supported by the communities it will affect.

"There should be a partnership that is resourced for community-based organizations to share power and have ownership in that planning process, and whatever comes out of it should reflect our identity, our needs and our history," he said.

CDOT officials leading the city's bike infrastructure efforts hold a similar view. They have heard the frustrations of some activists over the pace of bike lane construction, but believe development needs to be bottom-up, Deputy Commissioner Vig Krishnamurthy said.

"It isn't one-size-fits-all because the city isn't created out of one mold," he said. "You have to bring people along, or otherwise the change isn't lasting."

The city plans to create "neighborhood networks" of connected bike infrastructure in certain neighborhoods where the city and residents believe it is needed while also connecting the different networks. The plan amounts to a bike grid, said CDOT Complete Streets director Dave Smith.

"I think we're seeing it happen," he said. "That's absolutely where we're headed."

Still, the demand for bike infrastructure is "just not there yet" in some areas, so the city has focused on sparking interest, Krishnamurthy said. The push includes giving away 5,000 free bikes and shutting down major boulevards such as Drexel, Douglas and Logan to cars for a day.

The rise in bike ridership, infrastructure and advocacy is creating a positive feedback loop that will continue to lead to more development, they said. But the gradual development underway is still not fast enough for some.

As two transit officials at a December CDOT community meeting led a small group discussion and highlighted plans to make streets safer that leaned heavily on public messaging, frustration spread among the activists, mostly from Bike Grid Now.

Why not close DuSable Lake Shore Drive by downtown, one suggested. The changes need to be top-down and broad, activist Scott Rubin said.

After the meeting, Rubin said he was disappointed. Piecemeal infrastructure tweaks and outreach campaigns telling drivers to go slower won't cut it, he said.

"Chicago prioritizes car travel and kind of ignores everyone else," Rubin said. "It's life or death for a lot of people."

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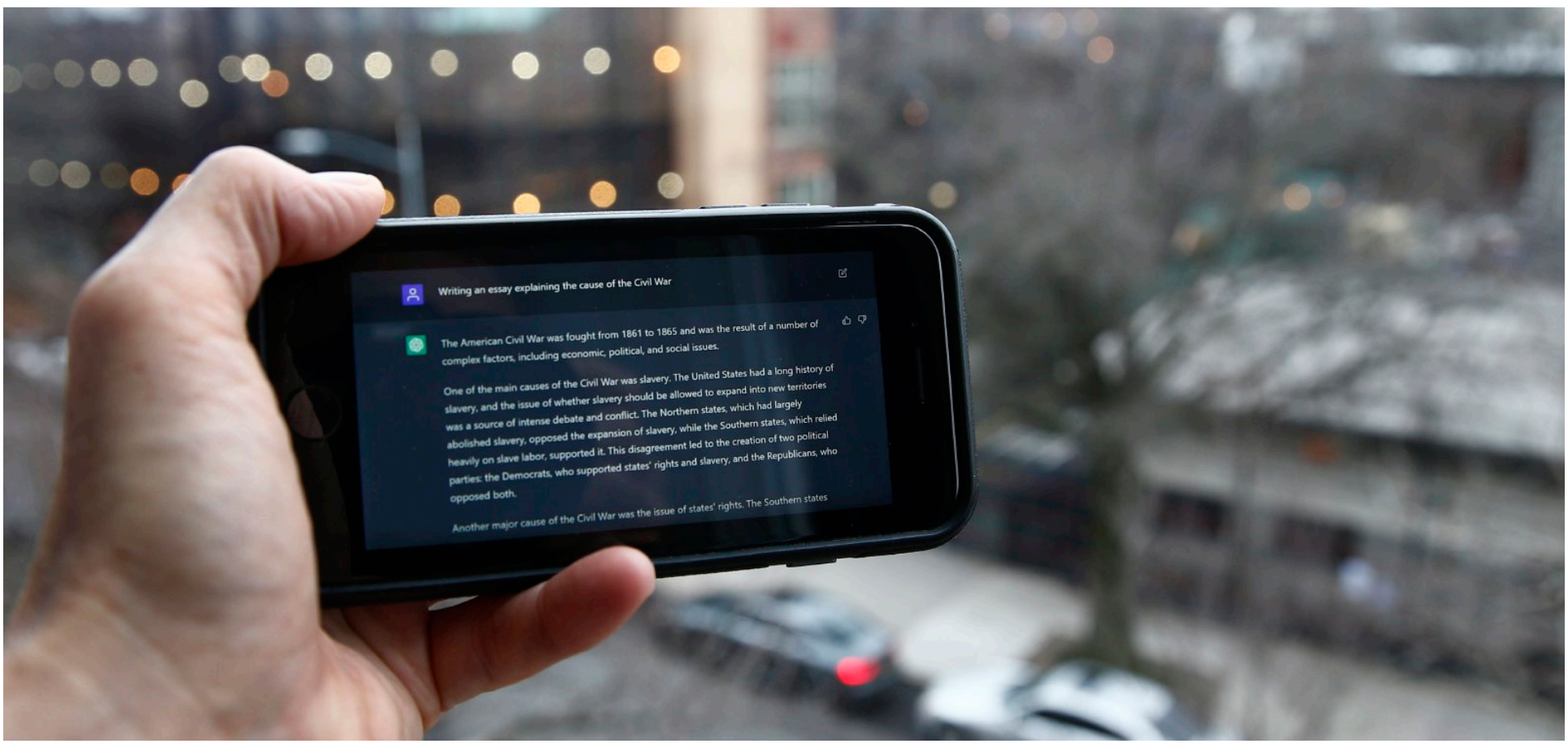
Writing an essay explaining the cause of the Civil War
The American Civil War was fought from 1861 to 1865 and was the result of a number of complex factors, including economic, political, and social issues.
One of the main causes of the Civil War was slavery. The United States had a long history of slavery, and the issue of whether slavery should be allowed to expand into new territories was a source of intense debate and conflict. The Northern states, which had largely abolished slavery, opposed the expansion of slavery, while the Southern states, which relied heavily on slave labor, supported it. This disagreement led to the creation of two political parties: the Democrats, who supported states' rights and slavery, and the Republicans, who opposed both.
Another major cause of the Civil War was the issue of states' rights. The Southern states

A ChatGPT prompt is shown on a device near a public school in Brooklyn, New York, on Jan. 5. New York City school officials started blocking the impressive but controversial writing tool that can generate paragraphs of human-like text. **PETER MORGAN/AP**

Did your kid write that essay? Or did ChatGPT?

Whether we like it or not, artificial intelligence is wending its way into virtually every corner of our lives. Our Google searches, email drafts and Facebook newsfeeds rely on AI. While AI-assisted Roombas clean our carpets, Amazon's Alexa tells us it's going to snow, or reminds us that, yes, Cate Blanchett has indeed already won two acting Oscars — for Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" and Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine."

Now AI, in the form of a controversial app called ChatGPT, has made its debut in classrooms, and school districts across the country are scrambling to bone up on the technology and decide whether it should be seen as friend or foe.

ChatGPT is the brainchild of OpenAI, a startup with ties to Microsoft. It's free, and it works much the way a search engine does, responding to a question or request. The big difference: ChatGPT generates text that convincingly approximates the syntax and flow of the human written word. Its versatility encompasses everything from poetry and essays to math problems and computer coding.

When we tried it, the website was so besieged by users that it became overwhelmed, and offered up only a quaint attempt at a sonnet that pleaded for patience. A brief excerpt:

"But alas, the server cannot cope,
And the error message rings loud
and clear,
"Please check back soon," it gently
hopes,
As it begs for a moment's reprieve, to
reappear."

Hardly Shakespeare, but perhaps we're setting the bar too high.

In any case, the app likely will be a boon for businesses, law firms, insurance companies and any other enterprise that relies heavily on boilerplate verbiage. In schools and colleges, however, the hand-wringing has begun.

The nation's largest public school district, New York City Public Schools, has already banned students and teachers from using ChatGPT, citing "negative impacts on student learning, and concerns regarding the safety and accuracy of content." Los Angeles Unified School District followed suit, explaining the measure as a way to "protect academic honesty while a risk/benefit assessment is conducted."

Other districts are still weighing their options, including Chicago Public Schools. Chalkbeat reported that CPS is taking a hard look at the use of ChatGPT in classrooms, but has yet to impose any sort of ban. A CPS spokesperson, Chalkbeat reported, stated that the district is "committed to providing students with a rigorous and engaging educational experience that incorporates technological advances. This includes tools that help students explore budding career pathways."

CPS is right to review the merits of student and teacher use of ChatGPT, but it's wrong in not taking the same route as New York and Los Angeles.

Cheating is as synonymous with classrooms as chalk and erasers. Yesteryear techniques ranged from crib sheets cupped in a student's palms to a simple peek over the shoulder of a classmate. Today's digital age takes the potential for cheating to new levels, and ChatGPT makes it far too easy for struggling students to lean on AI-generated writing in place of what comes out of their own heads. What's especially worrisome is that ChatGPT's syntax appears to be polished and natural enough to elude not just anti-plagiarism software but even the most seasoned educator's scrutiny.

In a December 2022 article in the Atlantic, high school teacher Daniel Herman conveyed his trepidation about the app after testing it with a series of prompts ranging from a cover letter for a job at Starbucks to a research paper on the common threads that bind two disparate literary works, such as Homer's "The Odyssey" and Dante's "Inferno." Lightning fast, ChatGPT fulfilled every task without a hitch. "What GPT can produce right now is better than the large majority of writing seen by your average teacher or professor," Herman wrote.

We're not Luddites, and we believe that technology must always be given space to advance the educational experience at every level, from preschool to university. ChatGPT may well have undeniable utility in a variety of classroom circumstances. First, however, school districts must determine how to best use ChatGPT without allowing its exploitation of student learning. Only then should it make its way into classrooms.

Technological leaps and anxiety over how those advances will integrate into our lives go hand in hand. An 1877 New York Times editorial railed at the advent of the telephone, saying, "If any telephonic miscreant connects a telephone with one of the countless telegraphic wires that pass over the roofs of this City there will be an immediate end of all privacy." Guglielmo Marconi had doubts about his own invention — the radio: "Have I done the world good, or have I added a menace?"

ChatGPT, and the myriad other manifestations of AI, should be welcomed for what they are — game-changers that help us live better lives. But in classrooms, care must always be taken to ensure that a new means of educating helps rather than harms. It's incumbent on CPS and school districts across America to assess ChatGPT diligently, before rushing it into practice.

ABOUT WHY GEORGE SANTOS MUST GO

Mark Twain is right that a lie travels around the world before the truth can put its pants on, but the truth has raced back to bite George Santos in the rear. That became clearer than ever Wednesday as leading New York Republicans demanded the new congressman resign immediately.

Santos is defiant, refusing to step down because he was "elected to serve the people of #NY03 and not the party & politicians." But the man the voters elected bears little resemblance to the disgraced and diminished figure who now puts on a brave face. He lied about where he went to high school and where he went to college. He lied about getting a degree. He lied about working for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup. He lied about founding an animal charity. There's no record of the portfolio of buildings he claims to have owned. He falsely said that the 9/11 attacks "claimed my mother's life." He called himself the "grandson of Holocaust refugees" and a "proud American Jew"; those assertions don't check out either. He has been shifty on where hundreds of thousands of dollars he lent his own campaign came from. He said he lost "four employees" in the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, but that too turns out to be untrue.

Santos dismisses these volumes of fiction as mere "embellishment," akin to common resume puffery, but making a small fraction of such blatant misrepresentations to a prospective employer during the hiring process would get any ordinary employee fired lickety-split. New Yorkers elected a man named George Santos who does not exist. The one who now wields power in their name in Congress should look himself in the cracked mirror and have the decency to heed the rising calls for his resignation.

New York Daily News Editorial Board

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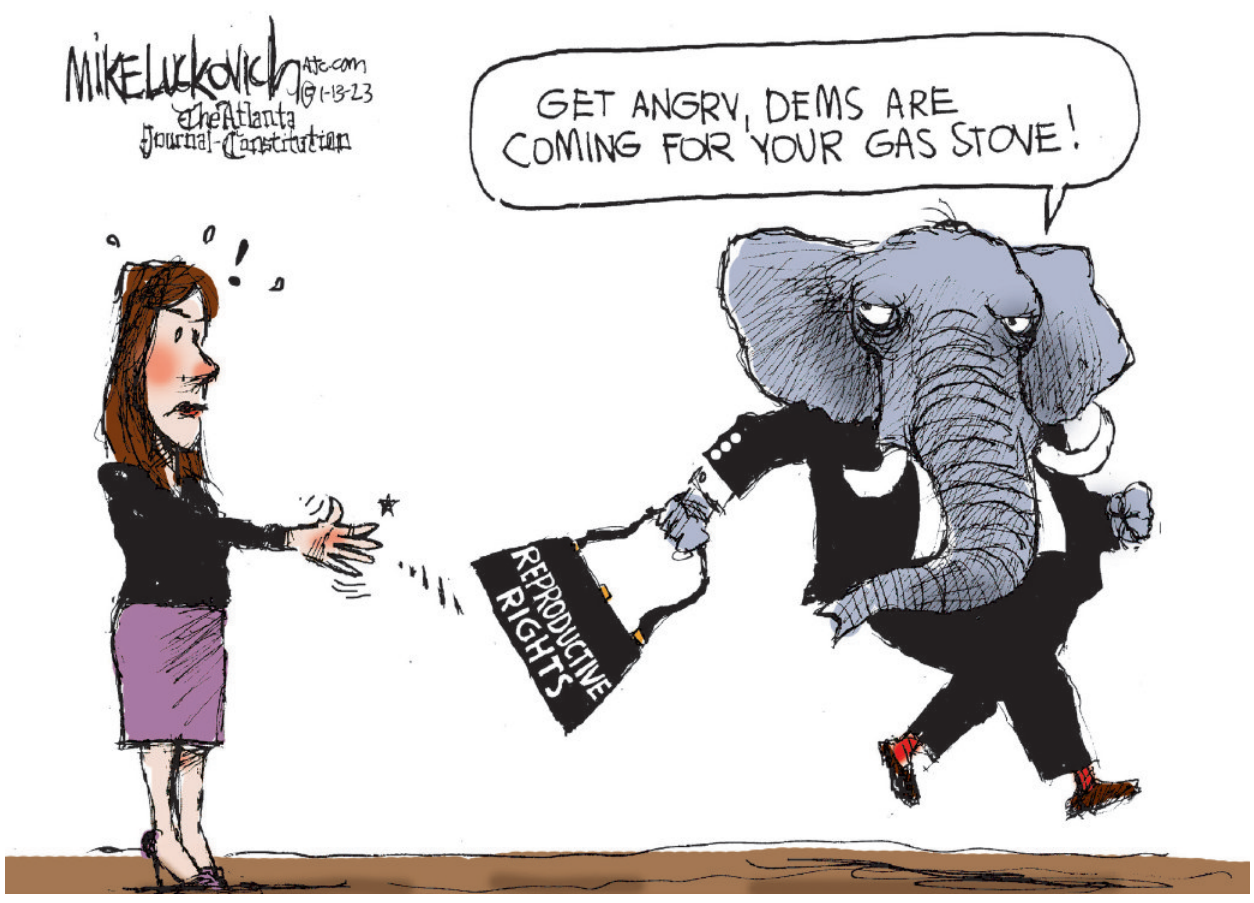
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OPINION

The US can afford a defense spending cut

By Daniel DePetris

Members of the 182nd Infantry Regiment gather before heading into the field to train at Fort Dix in New Jersey on May 16 before deployment to the Middle East. **JOSEPH PREZIOSO/GETTY-AFP**

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy had to beg, plead and deal to get his current job. One of the agreements struck on the House floor with the most conservative faction of the Republican caucus was a promise to keep the next spending bill at levels that were agreed to in fiscal 2022. If McCarthy keeps his word, $130 billion in federal discretionary spending would be cut from the recently passed budget package. And if defense spending were to be included, $76 billion in military expenditures would be on the chopping block.

The prospect of the Pentagon losing out on tens of billions of dollars has caused panic on both sides of the aisle. Republican defense hawks are firmly opposed to a defense spending reduction and in fact are seeking annual, consistent hikes of 3% to 5% above inflation. The White House blasted the proposed cuts, stating that a push to "defund our military ... is senseless and out of line with our national security needs." Twelve moderate House Democrats sent a joint letter to McCarthy last week discouraging any budget cuts to defense.

It's not every day when The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board and the White House are in alignment. But apparently, the need to spend a gargantuan $858 billion on the military is one of them. The problem: The Pentagon isn't immune to critical spending decisions, or at least it shouldn't be.

In the current political climate, a smaller U.S. defense budget is remote. Even if defense isn't spared as a target for cuts, there are enough security hawks in Congress to stymie whatever attempt there is to cap, let alone reduce, the Pentagon gravy train. And, assuming the House magically were to find a way to do so, the Senate, still controlled by Democrats, wouldn't play ball. The practicalities are hard to envision.

Leave the politics aside, however, and it's easier to envision why lower spending on the defense apparatus is necessary and rational.

First, we should be clear as to what a proposed $76 billion cut in defense actually means.

Reading this in isolation, you might assume the Pentagon would be starved for cash and unable to maintain its operational readiness, as well as struggle to finance the research and development for the next generation of military technology. But this is hardly the case. Cutting $76 billion would merely bring the Pentagon back to the fiscal 2022 level of $782 billion, a figure that was even more than what President Joe Biden requested at the time. The U.S. would still be spending as much on its military as the next nine countries combined, and the quality of its soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines would still be exponentially more professional than what America's adversaries could offer.

All of this, however, seems to fall on deaf ears in Congress. It's not surprising why.

Lawmakers want to keep defense-related jobs in their districts. Very often, this involves preventing the Pentagon from decommissioning weapons platforms the services view as redundant, outdated or wasteful. It took years before Congress allowed the Air Force to begin retiring the A-10 Warthog, a close-attack aircraft useful in counterinsurgency but inefficient against a state adversary with modern air defense systems. The Air Force was prevented, yet again, from retiring some of the older versions of the F-22 fighter jet, which the Pentagon argues is too expensive to upgrade relative to other high-priority investments that could be made.

The Pentagon is also a sprawling organization, operating facilities across the country that U.S. defense officials admit they don't need. According to a 2017 Defense Department report, the Army's excess capacity is 33%, which means the American taxpayer is throwing money into infrastructure the Army could mothball if it wanted to. Yet it's prevented from doing so; lawmakers continue to claim that closing bases is more expensive than preserving unnecessary buildings and airfields. So the U.S. instead finds itself operating bases for the sake of doing so, similar to a homeowner paying for an unused vacation house.

Ultimately, however, the most important argument in favor of getting defense spending under control is strategic: The U.S. military is doing too much around the world anyway. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. military personnel remain stationed overseas at any given time, most of them tied to security commitments that were previously etched into existence during the Cold War contest with the Soviet Union. The U.S. maintains more than 100,000 troops in Europe, despite the fact that the Russian military is proving itself to be a colossal, incompetent, twisted mess and Washington's European allies have the monetary resources to build their own military capacity. More than 30,000 U.S. troops are based in the Middle East, a region Biden supposedly wants to move on from.

All of this is compounded by a long-term problem: Rather than insisting on equitable defense relationships with its allies and partners, the U.S. insists on taking the lead. The result is a situation in which partners are not only incapable of contributing to shared missions but also comfortable outsourcing their security needs to Washington.

The bottom line is simple: If one did take place, a cut to U.S. defense dollars won't translate into global anarchy or Armageddon. Keep this perspective in mind the next time an official or lawmaker engages in histrionics.

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Mayoral race a good time to decide whether CTU has right priorities

By Matt Paprocki

Chicago Teachers Union members gather outside Benito Juarez Community Academy in Chicago on Aug. 18, 2021, to discuss safety for students and staff . **JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The Chicago mayoral race might be a performance review of Chicago's current executive leader, but the election also presents an opportunity to review a group of political leaders the public never elected.

That group would be Chicago Teachers Union leaders who make up the Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators and who are looking to place their guy in City Hall. The union has thrown its financial and public support behind mayoral candidate Brandon Johnson, a former CTU teacher and a political operative who still earned a salary as a legislative coordinator for the union as of June.

Union leaders' prominent involvement in the race reflects their priorities, none of which include Chicago Public Schools students. While CTU teachers provide an invaluable service to the city and society, the union's leadership uses its position to prioritize a political agenda over students' needs, much to students' detriment. For more than a decade, the union's increasing focus on politics correlated with a decline in CPS students' academic performance and achievement — and the trend looks likely to continue.

The union's priorities shifted after the caucus took control of CTU in 2010. As the caucus amplified the union's image as that of a lobbying special interest, students' test scores dropped. Based on an Illinois Policy Institute analysis of Illinois State Board of Education student proficiency data for third through eighth grades, between 2010 and 2014, the share of CPS students considered proficient in reading dropped by 29%. In math, that share dropped 30%. After a change in state testing — between 2015 and 2022 — student proficiency dropped 33% in reading and 31% in math.

As of the past full school year, nearly 80% of CPS students could not read at grade level. Just 15% met proficiency in math. In other words, students suffered as the union bosses played politics.

While test scores worsened, Chicago families began to look for other options. An Illinois Policy Institute analysis of CPS enrollment data reveals the district lost more than 87,000 students — a nearly 20% drop — between 2010 and 2022. At the start of the , 2022-23 school year, CPS enrolled a little more than 322,000 students, marking a loss of about 8,000 students from the previous year.

Rather than address the district's challenges, CTU leaders focus on promoting a political agenda through tactics that include aggressive striking, politicized demands during the collective bargaining process and financial support for political candidates. From 2012 to 2022, CTU led five strikes or work stoppages. Prior to the first strike in 2012, Chicago had not seen a teachers' strike in 25 years.

Each time, the union's collective bargaining tactics grew more aggressive and political. In 2019, CTU leaders demanded provisions such as affordable housing — topics well outside the scope of traditional collective bargaining negotiations.

In 2021, citing COVID-19 safety concerns, the union refused to teach classes in person, which forced the district to cancel classes. The union's politicized actions prompted Mayor Lori Lightfoot to tell The New York Times that CTU has ambitions to "take over running the city government." The union repeated that a year later, leaving parents to scramble overnight to arrange care for their children as the union again canceled classes by posing as public health experts who knew better than the public health experts.

But money remains the strongest and most common way the union flexes its political muscle. Most of CTU's money now goes to politics. In 2021, 81% of the union's spending went to politics, administration and other leadership priorities, according to an Illinois Policy Institute analysis of the union's own financial reports. That means less than 20 cents of every dollar CTU spent went toward doing its supposed No. 1 job of representing teachers.

City, county, state and federal politicians benefit from CTU's enrichment. Johnson is only one of the most recent beneficiaries. And whether the union's hand-picked candidate wins the Chicago mayoral election, Johnson's campaign foreshadows more CTU time and energy directed to politics and less to students.

The mayoral election is an opportunity to ask whether union leadership and its priorities best serve students' interests. Whether continued interruptions in students' learning and declining test scores signify progress. Whether a group designed to represent teachers should be involved in politics at all.

Regardless of the outcome of the mayoral election, one thing is clear: Putting politics first and student success second is bad for our city.

Matt Paprocki is president of the Illinois Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research organization.

OPINION

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy talks Thursday at a news conference at the U.S. Capitol. **ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY**

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Fixation on Hunter Biden

The new Republican majority in the House of Representatives has pledged that it will spend its time and resources relentlessly investigating President Joe Biden's son Hunter. Arguably, Hunter Biden has made mistakes and may face some legal liability for his actions, but make no mistake. He is not the real target; the president is. The Republicans' intent is to besmirch the reputation of the president before he formally announces that he will run again in 2024.

The Republicans have totally demonized Hunter Biden to try to further their political self-interest. They are not truly interested in the pursuit of justice; they are vitally interested in the pursuit of power. Here is a news flash for them: Very few Americans find their pursuit of Hunter Biden to be important or credible.

What's more is that it may politically boomerang and smack them in the face by making Joe Biden a sympathetic figure for being a loving father who is just supporting his son. This is behavior that every mother and father in America can understand.

— Ken Derow, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

To McCarthy: How, exactly?

I just read that House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said, "We've got to change the way we are spending money wastefully in this country." I'm looking forward to learning what different way he has in mind.

— Bill Page, Morton Grove

Reading the Constitution

During the midterms, the Republicans promised that they would read the Constitution aloud on the floor the very first day they took control of the House. I must have missed it.

— Richard Keslinke, Algonquin

The National Archives' role

Standard protocol in any records retention system is the custodian has the approved recipient sign out for records. The custodian keeps track of who has what and follows up to make sure those records are returned.

So why hasn't the National Archives been cited for its role in not following up on the return of records by Donald Trump and Joe Biden? Is it releasing top-secret documents without any sign-out protocol? I shudder to think so.

— Jim Ciemny, Niles

Where does blame go?

The "evil" Republicans have tried to blame President Joe Biden for the record number of immigrants crossing into the country. Where else does the blame go?

Oh, maybe to Vice President Kamala Harris, who was going to handle the situation? Where else does failure to enforce federal laws go? It's only fair for sanctuary cities to share the burden.

— Dianne Kinzer, Springfield

Democracy can be messy

The title of the Jan. 10 column by Daniel DePetris and the column itself are not consistent ("Speakership saga exposes America's self-centeredness"). I give the headline credit for greater accuracy and wish it had been more fully developed.

With respect to the content, Russia, China and Iran are not democracies and are not recognized as models. The United States is. Despite our imperfections, we are in essence the standard. Isn't our migrant problem evidence of that? Democracy can be messy — as the speakership saga proves. It will be used by our adversaries despite what DePetris thinks. (As a retired Foreign Service officer, I am so glad I am not expected to explain that the saga does not disprove democracy.)

DePetris' final statement — "It's narcissism at its finest" — is confusing. Is he arguing that it is not embarrassing to the United States, or is he saying that the saga itself was narcissistic? If the latter, I agree fully with him and the headline. However much one might hate to admit it, it is quite embarrassing. If nothing else, rendering a key part of the U.S. government inoperable for a week is not something responsible people would be proud of.

And it also can be termed hypocritical with all the references to the good of the nation while the motivation is not even party; it is self-interest.

Finally, one of the stated goals of the Republican House is to defeat attempts to raise the debt ceiling. That, too, smacks of a double standard. Every Republican president since Ronald Reagan has presided over an expansion of the federal deficit. Donald Trump added almost $8 trillion to the national debt.

— Julie McGrath, Palos Park

A malnourished 2-year-old sits by his mother, left, who was recently displaced by drought, at a malnutrition stabilization center June 5, run by Action against Hunger in Mogadishu, Somalia. **FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH/AP 2022**

Let's save every child

The United Nations warns that "more than 30 million children in the 15 worst-affected countries suffer from wasting — or acute malnutrition — and 8 million of these children are severely wasted, the deadliest form of undernutrition."

You can find these children in Somalia, where a prolonged drought has caused severe food shortages. In neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya, children are also suffering hunger. In Yemen, infants have perished from malnutrition because of a never-ending civil war. Likewise, conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo has worsened hunger and malnutrition. In South Sudan, the Sahel and other areas, a similar tragedy is unfolding for children.

Conflict and climate change have increased the number of kids at risk of deadly malnutrition. Children younger than 5 years old are most in danger. We must increase our efforts to stop child malnutrition.

We need to be committed to saving every child, whether it's in Yemen, Haiti, South Sudan or Somalia. We must continue increasing funding for global nutrition programs so nonprofits like Edesia in Rhode Island can produce lifesaving Plumpy'Nut. This enriched peanut paste is fed to children in hunger crisis zones and saves them from deadly malnutrition. UNICEF and the World Food Program need a steady supply of these foods, so there has to be timely funding and capacity to produce and distribute.

We have to make sure there are not gaps in the feeding programs where some kids get left out and starve. There cannot be funding shortages, ration cuts and suspension of aid programs in these afflicted nations as there has been in the past. Each of us can write letters to elected officials urging more support for the Food for Peace program with an emphasis on global infant nutrition.

Every child we save from deadly malnutrition also saves a family. Every life we save brings the world that much closer to the true peace we all deserve in 2023 and beyond.

— William Lambers, Cincinnati

Why US history matters

About 20 years ago, I had a discussion with a retired couple from Cornwall, England, a tiny village largely owned by Prince Charles, now King Charles III. Somehow, we got into students having to know the long list of kings and queens. In America, we don't teach the line of 46 presidents in schools, and we should.

Perhaps some history classes in some schools may teach an unsanitized history of the United States with all the warts and abscesses. My classes in high school and college — 29 semester hours of history — in the 1960s skipped or whitewashed the terrible things the United States has done to people in what became the most powerful country in the world.

Outside studies have shown me that millions of people who lived here were killed after the first Europeans arrived. We locked up people with Japanese ancestry in internment camps; they lost their homes, businesses and, some, their bank accounts. Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest became the first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. Like-minded Southerners killed thousands of nonwhite people.

We are responsible for the deaths of hundreds, possibly thousands, of Indian children in boarding schools. The schools' purpose was to assimilate them by destroying their culture and their language, cutting their hair and teaching them Christianity.

Students need to learn the people who started our quest for independence were not always the pinnacle of honesty and morality. Less than half of colonists supported independence, and 20% wanted to stay English, with the rest not caring.

Today's situation would seem less of a problem if students understood we are getting better than we were. Ignorance is not a blessing.

— Chuck Johnson, Morris, Illinois

Problem with grandstanding

Moral grandstanding has become inescapable in contemporary culture. Folks seem to be tripping over each other to express their righteousness to whoever will listen. You need not possess a scintilla of personal virtue. You need only to expose those of ostensibly lesser virtue to win at this game.

It's not necessary to push your own beliefs (if you have any). One can impress receptive throngs by simply calling out scoundrels and bumblers. No expenditure of your own resources is required. By asserting how horrific they are, you're suggesting how honorable you are. It costs nothing.

You can optimize the plaudits you're getting by joining hands with like-minded grandstanders. These allies in outrage can provide reassurance that your sanctimonious chiding is making a difference.

— Scott Thompson, Bloomington, Indiana

Gun rights not absolute

The Second Amendment states: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The problem with people who shield themselves with the Second Amendment is that many know (or care) only about the second part of that sentence. The first part should explain to most why this right is not absolute and not guaranteed in perpetuity.

Quite simply, we no longer need, or want, our citizens to be part of a militia, well-regulated or not. If you want to use military-grade weaponry, join the military.

The First Amendment has evolved over time by adding categories of unprotected speech including obscenity, child pornography, defamatory speech, false advertising and true threats.

Perhaps the First Amendment has evolved because there is no free speech lobby pouring millions of dollars into the campaigns of politicians whose support they wish to purchase.

— K.P. Pecho, Mokena

For online-exclusive letters, go to www.chicagotribune.com/letters. Email your letter submissions, 400 words or less, to letters@chicagotribune.com. Include your full name, address and phone number.

WINNETKA VILLAGE

Council reevaluating role in lakefront regulation

By Alex Hulvalchick
Chicago Tribune

The Winnetka Village Council is considering getting more involved in lakefront regulation following the ongoing controversy involving Justin Ishbia and plans for a mansion on 3.7 acres on Lake Michigan along Sheridan Road.

Residents have been pushing back against the plans since May, voicing concerns that his plans to develop his section of lakefront with several stone breakwaters, a boat ramp and more will limit access and views of nearby homeowners.

"Tonight isn't about rock walls or pipes or boat ramps or dog beaches. It's about jurisdiction and a potential shift in the villages appetite to assume a more active role in shaping the future of the lakefront," Village President Chris Rintz. "Even though we may not like what our neighbors may chose to do, we have been accepting of most recognizing the importance of our residents personal property rights."

Resident Ted Wynnychenko, who doesn't own lakefront property, said that he supports the village stepping up and taking ownership of its part to keep the Winnetka shoreline accessible even suggesting the council issue a temporary moratorium on lakefront development.

"The reason that we're looking at 100-year-old case law is because the people that have money and the people that care about this are the people that live on the lake," Wynnychenko said. "They have a vested interest in making that as positive for themselves as they can. No one argues this because no one that has the ability to argue it wants it changed."

Jenna Radnay, a North Shore real estate agent who has sold several lakefront Winnetka properties, said she worries that continued regulation will devalue properties along the water.

"There's a lot more to a lakefront property besides the lake," Radnay said. "I can sell anything on the lake but the most valuable lakefront property up to Lake Bluff is in Winnetka."

She further suggested establishing a committee of those who live along Sheridan Road saying they need a voice considering the how much they pay in taxes. There are 112 lakefront properties in Winnetka with most owned by private homeowners.

Several presenters from different government agencies spoke about the protections and regulations each provides to the Lake Michigan shoreline. Soren Hall, a senior project manager for the United States Army Corp of Engineers, explained how the agency conducts its work.

"As part of the Army Corps, we are not for or against any project. We're trying to balance the public needs for these types of projects and protection of the environment," Hall said. "People kind of want us to be a little bit more of an advocate agency and kind of stop certain types of activities. We don't much ability to do that. If the village feels strongly about a vision that they would like for the shoreline, there's much greater capacity to do that at your level than we have at our level."

Stephen Altman, a division manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, said its jurisdiction line is determined by either the ordinary high water mark or the toe of the bluff — whichever is considered more restrictive. The agency created guidelines for shore protection projects in 2008 but they don't have to be strictly followed.

"They're not rule it's just guidelines to give the applicant some idea of things we're looking for," Altman said.

The agency conducts surveys before and after a project. Neighbors of the permitted property also need to be notified of the project, three to the north and 10 to the south, in order to give the opportunity for feedback. Those who file Individual Permits are subject to a 30-day comment period as well.

The same application for shoreline projects is used by the Army Corps, IDNR and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency but each has its own guidelines and specifications. Altman said the agencies often work together.

Legacy

from Page 1

inequities, police violence, a militarized international order, hardline immigration structures and the climate crisis. She said she's "exhausted, exasperated and, frankly, disappointed" to hear her father's words about justice quoted so extensively alongside "so little progress" addressing society's gravest problems.

"He was God's prophet sent to this nation and even the world to guide us and forewarn us. ... A prophetic word calls for an inconvenience because it challenges us to change our hearts, our minds and our behavior," Bernice King said. "Dr. King, the inconvenient King, puts some demands on us to change our ways."

President Joe Biden addressed an MLK breakfast Monday hosted in Washington by the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network. Sharpton got his start as a civil rights organizer in his teens as youth director of an anti-poverty project of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"This is a time for choosing," Biden said, repeating themes from a speech he delivered Sunday at Ebenezer at the invitation of Sen. Raphael Warnock, the senior pastor at Ebenezer who recently won re-election to a full term as Georgia's first Black U.S. senator.

"Will we choose democracy over autocracy, or community over chaos? Love over hate?" Biden asked Monday. "These are the questions of our time that I ran for president to try to help answer. ... Dr. King's life and legacy — in my view — shows the way forward."

In Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu talked about a fight for the truth in an era of hyper-partisanship and misinformation. "We're battling not just two sides or left or right and a gradient in between that have to somehow come to compromise, but a growing movement of hate, abuse, extremism and white supremacy fueled by misinformation, fueled by conspiracy theories that are taking root at every level," she said.

Wu, the first woman and person of color elected mayor of Boston, said education restores trust. Quoting King, she called for overcoming the "fatigue of despair" to enact change. "It is sometimes in those moments when we feel most tired, most despairing, that we are just about to break through," Wu told attendees at a memorial breakfast.

Volunteers in Philadelphia held a "day of service" focused on gun violence prevention. The city has seen a surge in homicides that saw 516 people killed last year and 562 the year before, the highest total in at least six decades.

Some participants in the effort's signature project, led by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, worked to assemble gun safety kits for public distribution. The kits include "gun cable locks and additional safety devices for childproofing," according to organizers. They also include information about firearm storage, health and social services information, and coping in the aftermath of gun violence.

Other kits being assembled highlighted Temple University Hospital's "Fighting Chance" program and included materials to enable immediate response to victims at the scene of gunfire, organizers said. Recipients are to be trained in the use of the materials, which include tourniquets, gauze, chest seals and other items to treat critical wounds, they said.

At Ebenezer, Warnock, who has led the congregation for 17 years, hailed his predecessor's role in securing ballot access for Black Americans. But, like Bernice King, the senator warned against a reductive understanding of King.

"Don't just call him a civil rights leader. He was a faith leader," Warnock said. "Faith was the foundation upon which he did everything he did. You don't face down dogs and water hoses because you read Nietzsche or Niebuhr. You gotta tap into that thing, that God he said he met anew in Montgomery when someone threatened to bomb his house and kill his wife and his new child."

King, Warnock said, "left the comfort of a filter that made the whole world his parish," turning faith into "the creative weapon of love and nonviolence."

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON JAN. 17 ...

In 1781, during the Revolutionary War, American forces defeated the British in the Battle of Cowpens, S.C.

In 1806 Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

In 1893 Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Lili'uokalani to abdicate.

In 1917 the United States paid Denmark $25 million for the Virgin Islands.

In 1919 pianist and statesman Ignace Jan Paderewski became the first premier of the newly created republic of Poland.

In 1920 Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the Constitution took effect. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

In 1945 Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II.

In 1953 a prototype of the Chevrolet Corvette was unveiled during the General Motors Motorama at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

In 1961 in his farewell address, President Dwight Eisenhower warned against the rise of "the military-industrial complex."

In 1966 a U.S. Air Force B-52 carrying four unarmed hydrogen bombs crashed on the Spanish coast. (Three of the bombs were quickly recovered, but the fourth wasn't found until April.)

In 1996 Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and nine followers were handed long prison sentences for plotting to blow up New York-area landmarks.

Lottery numbers

For yesterday's numbers and recent drawings, go to chicagotribune.com/lottery or use your mobile device to scan the code above.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices
Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.
chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Delaloye, Edward 'Joe'
Edward "Joe" Delaloye, age 92, of LaGrange; beloved husband of the late Rosalie (née Messineo); loving father of late Nancy Delaloye, survived by Mary Ann Delaloye, Edward J. Delaloye, Jr., & Robert F. Delaloye; dear brother of the late Gus Delaloye, James (Janet) Delaloye, older brother (by 5 minutes) to his beloved twin the late Mary (John) Miller, Ann (Jack) Smith, Martha (Robert) Pike, & the late Jack (Rose Zita) Delaloye; uncle and friend of many. Visitation from 3 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, January 19 at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 1025 W. 55th St., Countryside. Family and friends will meet at St. Cletus Church, 600 W. 55th St., LaGrange for 10 a.m. Mass on Friday, January 20. Interment private. Kindly omit flowers. Donations in Joe's name to the American Legion Post 1941, 900 S. LaGrange Rd., LaGrange, IL 60525 are appreciated. Funeral information: (708) 352-6500 See full obituary at hjfunerals.com

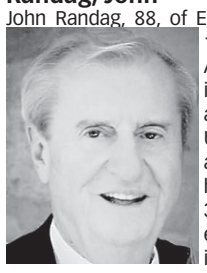
Hallowell & James Funeral Home

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Jacob, John C.
John Christopher Jacob, 72, died on January 5, 2023. John was born in Chicago on August 27, 1950, raised in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and spent the majority of his life in Oak Park, IL. John graduated from Glenbard West High School, received a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. (in Writing/Poetry) from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where his mentor was the well-known poet, Michael Anania. John was very active in the Small Press poetry scene in the 1970s-1990s, running his own publishing house Cat's Pajamas Press. He was a prolific, published poet who won Chicago's first Carl Sandburg Literary Award for Poetry. John also published a novel, Long Ride Back, about a Vietnam veteran. Throughout his career, John taught at Northwestern University, North Central College and Roosevelt University. John was also a Poet-in-Residence for the Illinois Arts Council for many years. He is survived by his two children, Lucas (Madison) and Katy (Gabe), a granddaughter, Lenny (16), a grandson, Augie (13), a brother, Jim Jacob, and his ex-wife Martha, as well as cousins and other extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bertram and Eleanor (Addy). No service is planned. In his memory, please support your local arts council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and/or PEN America. "Mellow this movement of moments…the current runs on and on through time…"

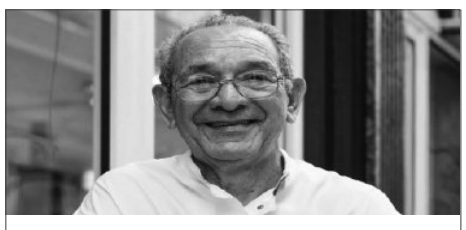
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Randag, John
John Randag, 88, of Elmhurst, IL, died on January 1st, 2023. He grew up in Arlington Heights, served in the Army, and graduated from Christian Brothers University in Memphis. John and Nancy (DeGuiseppe), his wife of 64 years, raised 3 daughters in Elmhurst. He enjoyed a lifelong career in the food industry and in 1985, he started his own successful business. John was a generous, honest man who served as a mentor to many friends and associates seeking an honorable and successful path in life. He is predeceased by his wife Nancy and daughter Cynthia. He is survived by daughters Michelle Randag, Jennifer Randag and grandchildren Lucas, Cameron, and Stephanie Welker. Visitation: Friday, January 20, 3-8pm Pedersen Ryberg, Elmhurst. Mass: 11:00 am Saturday, January 21, Immaculate Conception Church, Elmhurst. For info 630-834-1133



Pedersen Ryberg

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries



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- Enhance your notice by uploading photos and graphics
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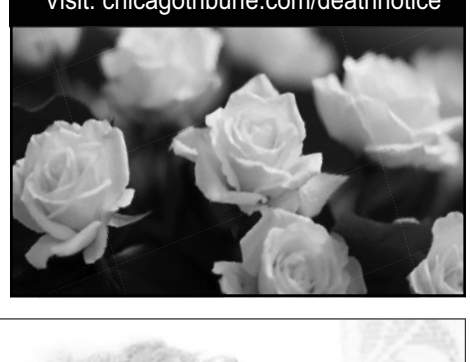
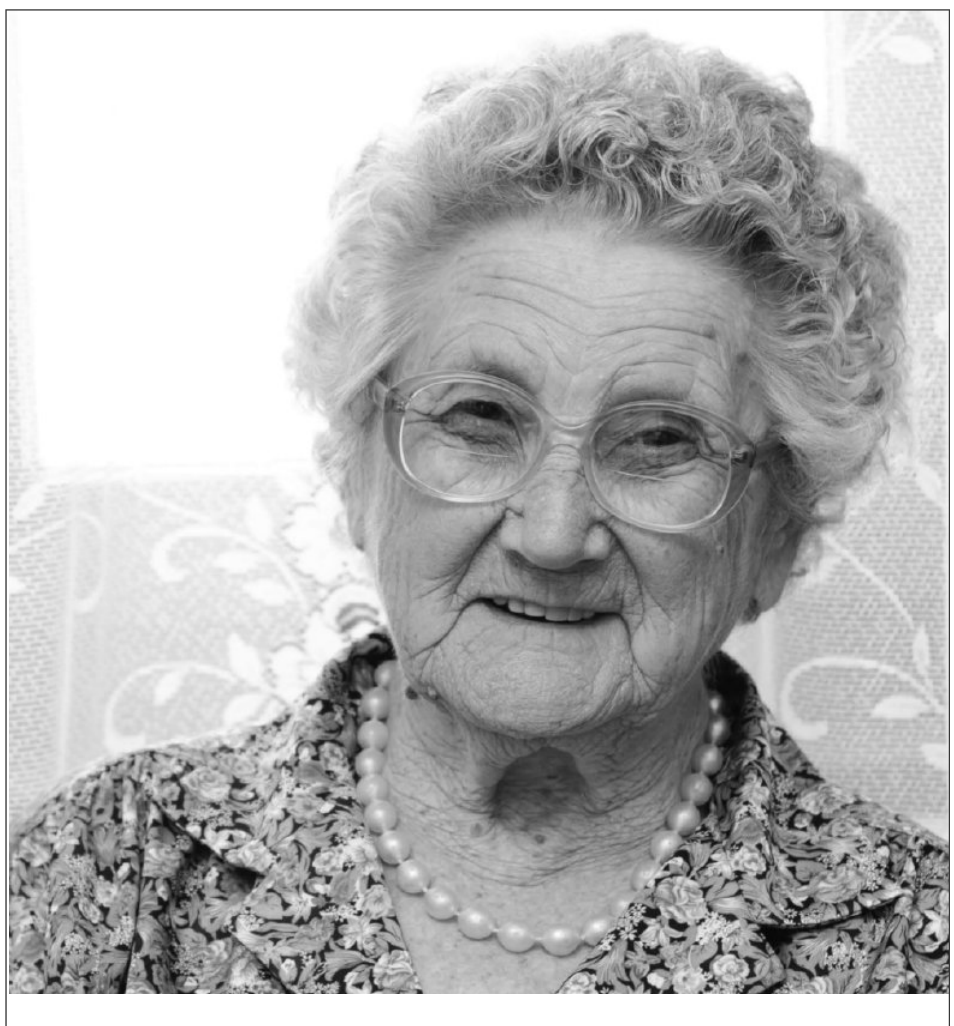
Includes print listing in the **Death Notice section of the Chicago Tribune,** an online notice with guestbook on chicagotribune.com.

Chicago Tribune

Visit: chicagotribune.com/deathnotice





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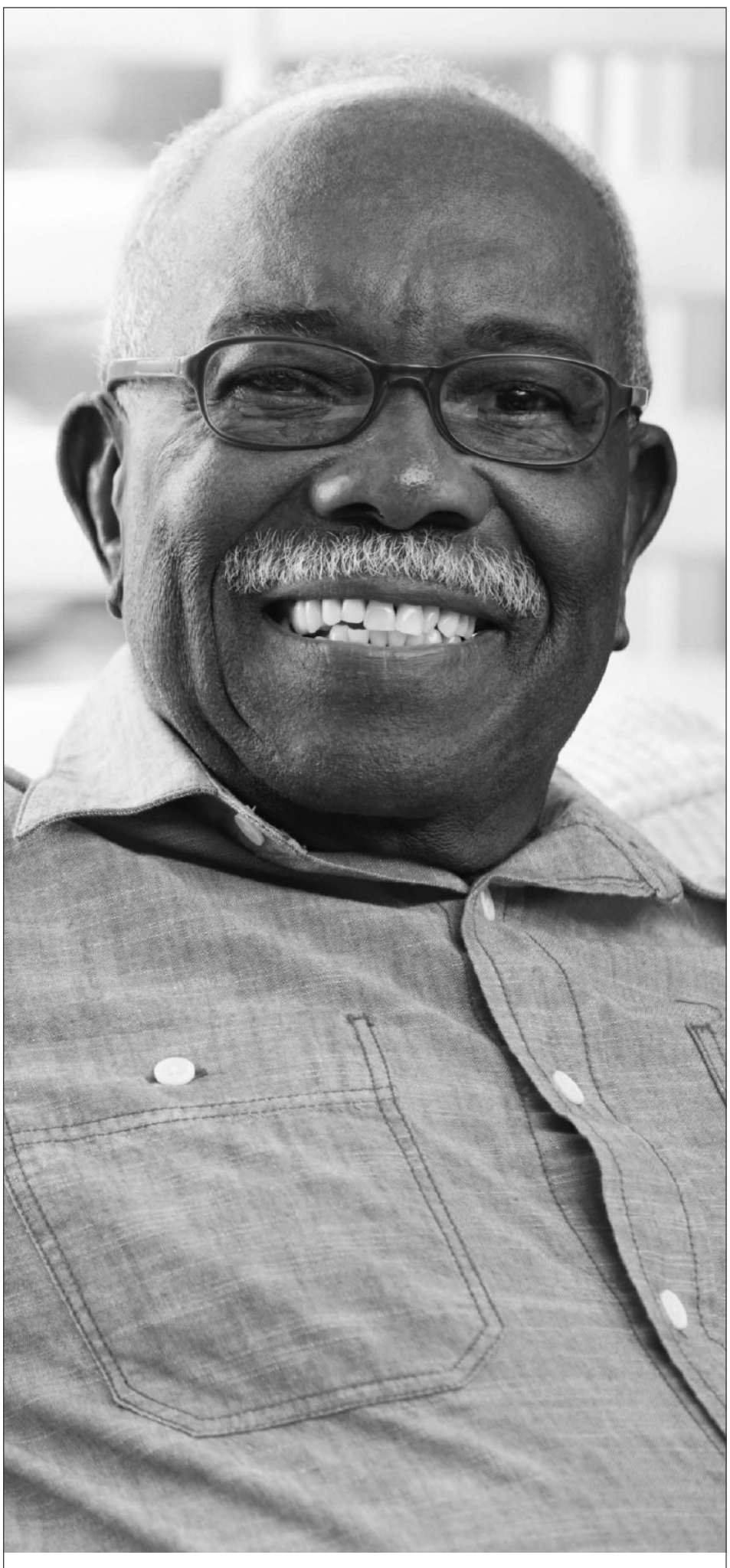

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Sheltie **317-828-4953**
Indianapolis **$1500** **2F**
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Maine Coon **949-478-5024**
Chicago, IL **850** **Male &Female**
Maine coon kittens , UTD on shots. For more inquires send an email to::lawencejenny10@gmail.com. Call/text 949-478-5024

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION

Notice is hereby given that the opening date heretofore advertised as Tuesday, January 17, 2023 has been extended to Tuesday, January 24, 2023 no later than 2:00 P.M. for the following items:
Req No.: B20OP80074R2,
Invitation for Bids (IFB) to Furnish and Deliver Various Types of Plywood as required for a period of up to thirty-six (36) months from date of contract execution.
PROPOSAL GUARANTEE: NONE
For additional information, please contact Jenna Scott, Procurement Administrator, jscott@transitchicago.com.
Any contract resulting from this advertisement will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
Chicago Transit Authority hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.
PLEASE NOTE: The right is reserved to accept any bid or any part or parts thereof or to reject any and all bids.
CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
By: Ellen G. McCormack
Vice President
Purchasing & Supply Chain
January 17, 2023
1/17/2023 7362113

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s):

Associate Civil Engineer (Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: January 6, 2023 through January 20, 2023. **Examination Date:** February 11, 2023. **Location:** To be announced. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Associate Civil Engineer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under general supervision, performs ordinary civil engineering work in connection with design, construction, inspection and scheduling review, operation and maintenance of water reclamation plants and sewers, surveys, specifications and estimates, inspection of materials and workmanship, project and cost control and complex engineering computations; may supervise subordinate engineers and sub-professional personnel.
Salary: $88,148.32 per year

Applications can be submitted online only at www.districtjobs.org.

Additional information may be found at www.districtjobs.org or call 312-751-5100.

Mailed, Emailed, Hand delivered or Faxed Applications Will Not Be Accepted. Resumes Will Not Be Accepted In Place of Application Forms.
An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/D
Pub: 1/6 thru 1/20/2023 7359967

NOTICE OF LINCOLNWOOD PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., the Plan Commission will conduct a Public Hearing on the following matters in the Council Chambers Room of Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois:

Case #PC-03-23 4370 West Touhy Avenue – Special Use to Allow a Permanent Dermal Pigmentation Establishment

Consideration of a request by Kaitlyn Moskowitz on behalf of Angelo Apostolou, property owner, to allow a permanent dermal pigmentation establishment as a Special Use at the property known as 4370 West Touhy Avenue. The Plan Commission may consider any additional relief that may be discovered during the review of this case.

At this Public Hearing, the Plan Commission will accept and consider all testimony and evidence pertaining to these requests. Persons desiring to comment or present evidence or testimony on any of these matters should appear at this Public Hearing or submit written comments in advance for consideration at the Hearing. Written comments, addressed to the Village Zoning Officer in the Community Development Department of Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712, or to dhammel@lwd.org, must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on the day of the Hearing. Information concerning these requests is available for inspection in the Community Development Department during normal business hours.
Dated: January 12, 2023
January 17, 2023 - 7361963

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF COOK COUNTY OF THE TIME AND PLACE FOR FILING VALUATION COMPLAINTS (ASSESSMENT APPEALS) RELATING TO 2022 REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that during the period JANUARY 19, 2023 THROUGH FEBRUARY 17, 2023, the Board of Review of Cook County will accept the filing of valuation complaints (assessment appeals) for

BLOOM, ELK GROVE, PALOS, THORNTON, EVANSTON

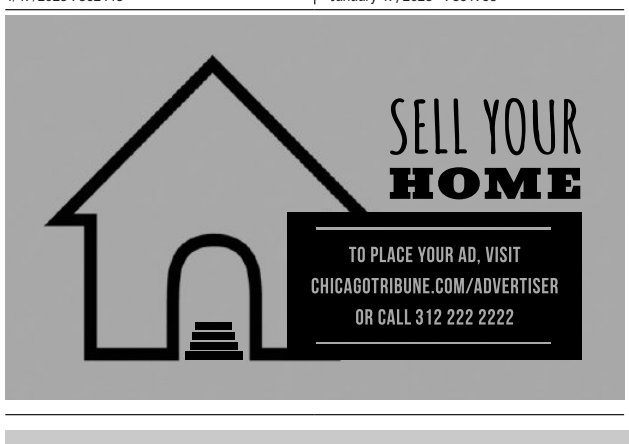
for the revisions and corrections of the 2022 Real Estate Assessments.

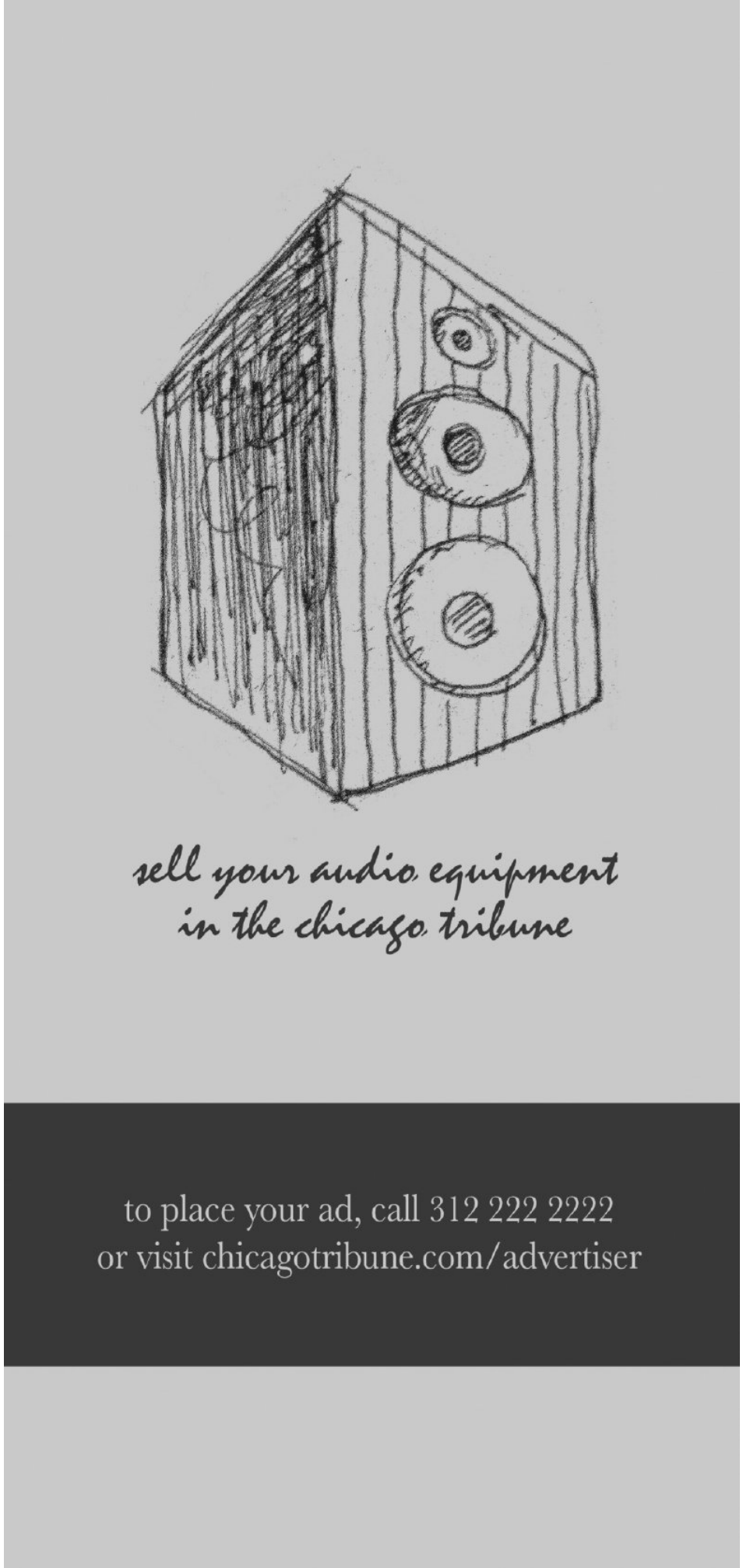
All complaints will be considered by the Board in Room 601 of the County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago Illinois, in accordance with the laws of Illinois, under the provisions of the Illinois Property Tax Code (formerly the Revenue Act of 1939), as amended.

Call (312) 603-5542 for a complaint form and further information.

Approved by the Board of Review of Cook County, Illinois in said County, this 12th day of January 2023.

LARRY R. ROGERS, JR., COMMISSIONER
SAMANTHA STEELE, COMMISSIONER
GEORGE A. CARDENAS, COMMISSIONER
January 17, 2023 - 7362329

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CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER

Meteorologists Phil Schwarz, Cheryl Scott, Tracy Butler, Larry Mowry and Greg Dutra

ABC7 Outlook: Gray skies and patchy drizzle through the day.

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night
High: 43 Low: 34	High: 39 Low: 36	High: 44 Low: 29	High: 35 Low: 27	High: 35 Low: 30	High: 36 Low: 31
A shower in the morning; cloudy, breezy	Low clouds	Rain and snow showers; breezy in the p.m.	Low clouds, then perhaps some sun	Low clouds, then perhaps some sun	Clouds and sun, showers of rain and snow
POP: 55%	POP: 25%	POP: 90%	POP: 10%	POP: 10%	POP: 65%
Winds: WSW 10-20 mph	Winds: NE 6-12 mph	Winds: SW 12-25 mph	Winds: W 8-16 mph	Winds: W 8-16 mph	Winds: SSW 7-14 mph

CHICAGO FORECAST

Tuesday Conditions

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

AccuWeather.com UV Index™

0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RealFeel Temperature®

31	29	27	30	29	28	28

Tuesday Activities

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

Outdoor Activities Index

1	1	0	2	2	1	2

Fishing Index

0	2	0	0	0	0	0

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. **0-2** Low, **3-5** Moderate, **6-7** High, **8-10** Very High, **11+** Extreme. The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. **Outdoor Activities and Fishing Indexes: 0-2**: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

CHICAGO ALMANAC

Monday Temperatures

O'Hare through 4 p.m.

High	45
Low	40
Normal high	31
Normal low	18
Record high	57 (1990)
Record low	-25 (1982)

Local Temperatures

through 6 p.m. Monday

Location	Hi	Lo	Normal Hi	Normal Lo
Aurora	45	37	30	14
Gary	43	37	33	19
Kankakee	47	36	32	16
Lansing	44	38	32	17
Midway	45	40	32	19
Romeoville	46	37	31	16
Valparaiso	41	36	34	18
Waukegan	40	37	31	16

Monday Precipitation

	2023	2022	Normal
Monday*	0.18"	0.01"	0.07"
Month to date	1.50"	0.36"	1.08"
Year to date	1.50"	0.36"	1.08"
Snowfall			
Monday*	0.0"	Trace	0.4"
Month to date	0.4"	4.7"	5.3"
Season to date	4.7"	6.6"	14.9"

*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Monday

Air Quality Index

Monday's reading: **Moderate**

Tuesday's forecast: **Good**

Primary pollutant: **Particulates**

Source: AirNow.gov

Sun and Moon

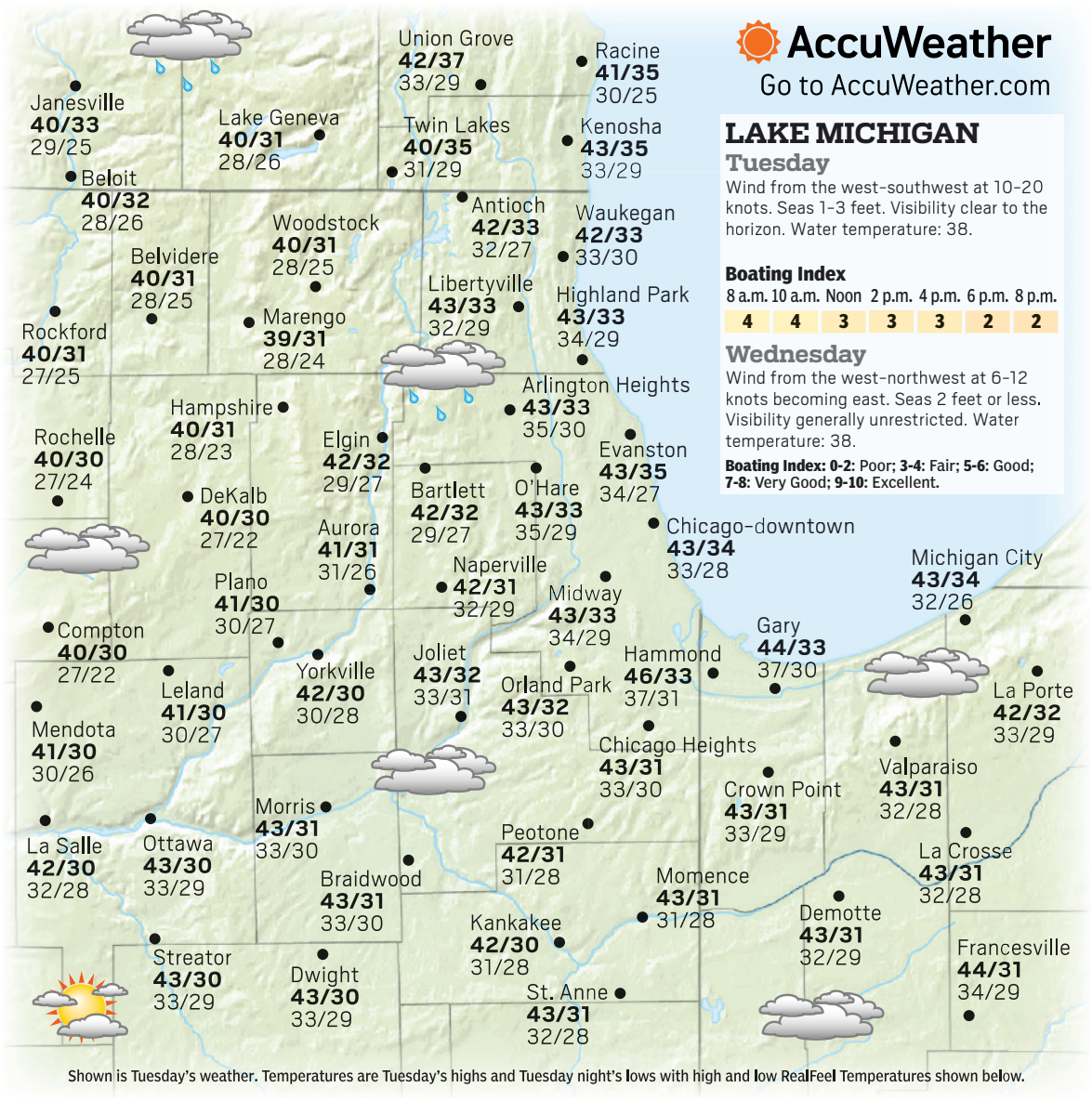
	Tue.	Wed.
Sunrise	7:15 a.m.	7:14 a.m.
Sunset	4:47 p.m.	4:48 p.m.
Moonrise	2:52 a.m.	4:08 a.m.
Moonset	12:29 p.m.	1:11 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 5	Feb 13

Tuesday's Planet Watch

	Rise	Set
Mercury	5:51 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
Venus	8:28 a.m.	6:29 p.m.
Mars	12:49 p.m.	4:10 a.m.
Jupiter	10:13 a.m.	10:21 p.m.
Saturn	8:41 a.m.	7:00 p.m.

Best viewing times today: Venus: 6:05 p.m. Mars: 6:05 p.m. Jupiter: 6:05 p.m. Saturn: 6:05 p.m. Mercury: 6:45 a.m.



Shown is Tuesday's weather. Temperatures are Tuesday's highs and Tuesday night's lows with high and low RealFeel Temperatures shown below.

AccuWeather

Go to AccuWeather.com

LAKE MICHIGAN

Tuesday

Wind from the west-southwest at 10-20 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility clear to the horizon. Water temperature: 38.

Boating Index

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
4	4	3	3	3	2	2

Wednesday

Wind from the west-northwest at 6-12 knots becoming east. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally unrestricted. Water temperature: 38.

Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

ASK abc7

Tracy Butler

QUESTION: What's the difference between mostly cloudy and mainly cloudy? The graphics look the same.

Richard, Evanston

ANSWER: Richard, thank you for writing. There is NO difference. Simply a way to change up the description of the day. But I thought I would share with you how meteorologists "measure" cloud cover to come up with a description. We use something called "oktas." Pretend to use a piece of pie and cut into eight slices. A sky that's "mostly sunny," has 1/8 to 2/8 sky covered with clouds (or one or two slices of that pie covered). Partly cloudy or partly sunny has cloud cover of 3/8 to 5/8. Mostly cloudy sky has 6/8 to 7/8 sky cover, or six to seven pieces of pie covered.

Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at **abc7chicago.com/weather** or send them to:

Ask ABC 7 Weather Team
190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601

NATIONAL FORECAST

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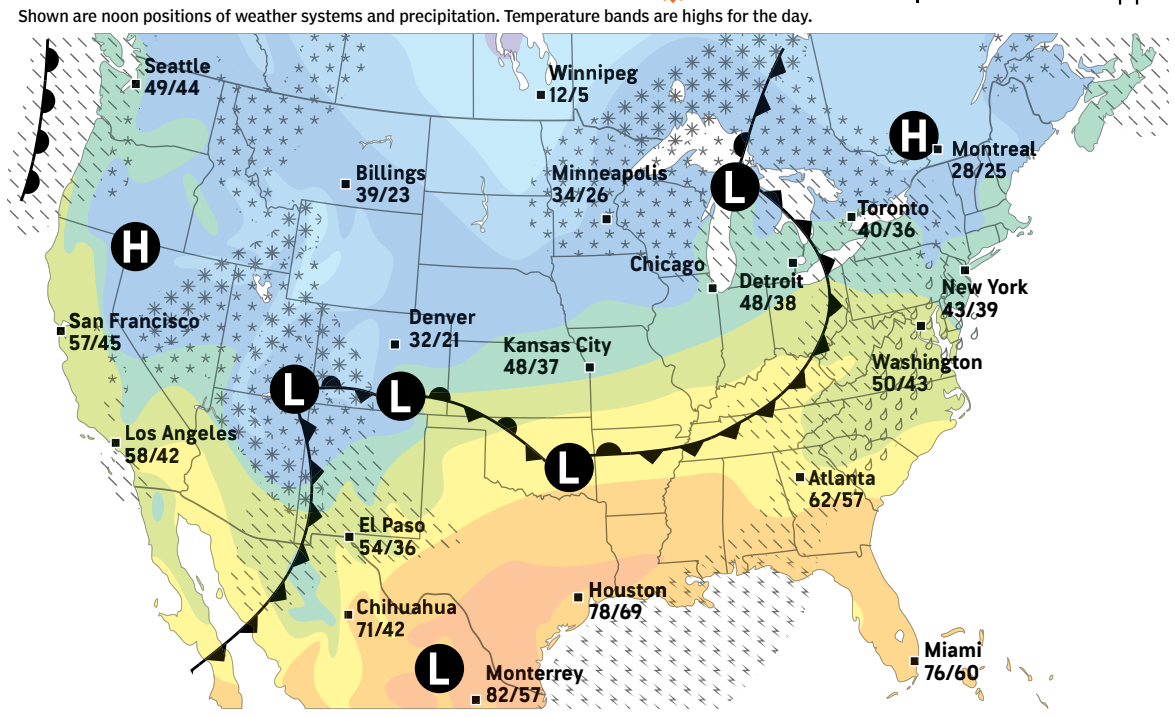
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Illinois		
Carbondale	60/41/pc	57/45/r
Champaign	45/32/pc	43/39/r
Decatur	46/33/pc	43/40/r
Moline	42/30/pc	39/33/r
Peoria	44/31/pc	41/38/r
Quincy	45/32/pc	39/36/r
Rockford	40/31/c	38/33/c
Springfield	48/31/pc	44/38/r
Sterling	40/31/pc	39/36/c
Indiana		
Bloomington	54/35/pc	50/45/r
Evansville	60/39/pc	58/48/r
Fort Wayne	48/34/c	42/39/c
Indianapolis	51/34/pc	44/43/r
Lafayette	47/32/c	43/41/pc
South Bend	44/34/c	41/37/c
Wisconsin		
Green Bay	40/31/sn	35/30/c
Kenosha	43/35/c	39/37/c
La Crosse	38/28/sn	36/29/c
Madison	39/31/c	36/32/c
Milwaukee	43/34/c	38/34/c
Wausau	39/28/sn	32/28/c
Michigan		
Detroit	48/38/c	40/36/c
Grand Rapids	45/36/c	39/36/c
Marquette	33/27/sn	28/23/sn
Sault Ste. Marie	37/30/sn	33/22/pc
Traverse City	44/35/sn	37/33/sn
Iowa		
Ames	37/27/pc	34/29/sn
Cedar Rapids	38/27/pc	34/29/sn
Des Moines	39/27/pc	36/29/sn
Dubuque	37/29/c	36/31/c

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	75/50/c	65/35/pc
Albany, NY	36/30/sf	43/30/c
Albuquerque	47/27/sh	40/22/pc
Amarillo	61/33/c	50/25/s
Anchorage	29/19/pc	25/19/c
Asheville	56/42/r	64/55/c
Aspen	29/15/sn	24/2/sn
Atlanta	62/57/r	67/60/c
Atlantic City	46/40/c	54/39/pc
Austin	80/62/pc	77/47/pc
Baltimore	48/40/c	57/40/pc
Billings	39/23/s	40/25/s
Birmingham	66/59/r	69/62/c
Bismarck	21/14/sf	21/14/c
Boise	40/25/c	40/30/pc
Boston	47/38/pc	50/34/c
Brownsville	82/70/pc	84/60/c
Buffalo	43/37/r	38/34/sn
Burlington, VT	33/30/pc	37/25/sn
Charleston, SC	68/55/c	71/57/pc
Charleston, WV	57/39/r	54/48/pc
Charlotte	54/47/r	67/58/pc
Chattanooga	63/52/r	67/60/sh
Cheyenne	33/20/c	27/17/sn
Cincinnati	58/38/pc	49/46/c
Cleveland	52/38/c	41/37/c
Colorado Spgs	40/24/sn	32/12/sn
Columbia, MO	51/37/pc	43/35/r
Columbia, SC	60/52/t	71/57/pc
Columbus, OH	56/38/c	46/41/c
Concord	43/31/pc	46/31/c
Corpus Christi	80/67/pc	85/53/t
Dallas	74/58/pc	70/40/pc
Daytona Beach	73/48/s	77/57/pc
Denver	32/21/c	25/13/sn
Duluth	33/19/sn	26/22/c
El Paso	54/36/sh	51/30/s
Fairbanks	2/-13/pc	-2/-9/pc
Fargo	20/12/sn	20/16/c
Flagstaff	28/19/sn	34/9/pc
Fort Myers	76/55/s	80/61/s
Fort Smith	68/50/pc	63/38/r
Fresno	54/39/pc	55/42/c
Grand Junction	38/29/sn	37/15/c
Great Falls	37/23/s	39/26/pc
Harrisburg	45/41/r	51/39/c
Hartford	46/32/pc	47/34/c
Helena, MT	36/18/c	33/23/c
Honolulu	79/65/pc	82/66/pc
Houston	78/69/c	73/50/t
Int'l Falls	32/11/sn	21/13/c
Jackson, MS	74/62/r	76/54/sh
Jacksonville	74/53/s	78/55/pc
Juneau	38/32/r	38/34/sn
Kansas City	48/37/pc	40/32/r
Las Vegas	53/36/pc	52/35/s
Lexington	59/41/sh	55/52/c
Lincoln	42/27/pc	32/25/sn
Little Rock	68/54/pc	66/43/t
Los Angeles	58/42/pc	60/45/s
Louisville	62/42/pc	54/50/r
Macon	69/56/t	71/59/c
Memphis	67/55/pc	68/49/t
Miami	76/60/pc	79/67/s
Minneapolis	34/26/sf	33/26/c
Mobile	74/60/r	75/65/sh
Montgomery	72/57/r	74/63/sh
Nashville	66/47/r	65/56/sh
New Orleans	78/66/r	78/64/sh
New York City	43/39/pc	52/38/pc
Norfolk	50/46/c	63/48/pc
Oklahoma City	65/51/c	60/30/r
Omaha	38/26/pc	33/25/sn
Orlando	73/50/s	79/57/pc
Palm Beach	76/57/pc	79/67/pc
Palm Springs	61/42/c	64/43/s
Philadelphia	45/41/c	54/39/pc
Phoenix	59/42/c	58/39/pc
Pittsburgh	50/40/r	44/38/c
Portland, ME	40/30/pc	44/28/c
Portland, OR	47/43/sh	46/36/r
Providence	47/34/sh	48/34/pc
Raleigh	51/46/r	64/54/pc
Rapid City	35/24/c	34/20/sn
Reno	38/19/c	40/27/pc
Richmond	53/44/sh	62/46/pc
Rochester	43/36/r	38/31/c
Sacramento	54/37/c	53/39/pc
St. Louis	53/39/pc	45/42/r
Salem, OR	48/43/sh	46/33/r
Salt Lake City	37/26/sn	34/22/c
San Antonio	81/61/pc	78/45/c
San Diego	59/45/pc	61/45/pc
San Francisco	57/45/pc	57/46/c
San Juan	83/71/pc	82/72/pc
Santa Fe	42/22/c	34/13/c
Savannah	73/56/pc	74/59/pc
Seattle	49/44/c	47/36/r
Shreveport	79/62/c	70/45/t
Sioux Falls	30/19/c	26/21/sn
Spokane	37/33/c	40/29/sn
Syracuse	37/34/r	38/31/sn
Tallahassee	74/57/t	75/62/c
Tampa	69/56/pc	75/61/pc
Topeka	47/37/s	41/28/r
Tucson	56/37/sh	55/33/s
Tulsa	65/49/pc	64/33/r
Washington, DC	50/43/sh	56/42/pc
Wichita	56/42/pc	56/26/r
Wilkes-Barre	38/37/r	45/35/c
Yuma	64/41/s	64/40/s

WORLD CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	84/68/pc	83/67/s
Algiers	68/49/pc	54/44/r
Amsterdam	41/28/pc	42/37/sh
Ankara	52/26/c	54/28/pc
Athens	65/60/pc	67/60/pc
Auckland	75/61/r	78/61/c
Baghdad	62/46/s	64/46/s
Bangkok	92/71/c	90/70/c
Barbados	83/76/sh	83/76/s
Barcelona	61/42/sh	56/39/sh
Beijing	41/13/pc	41/15/pc
Beirut	66/56/pc	70/54/s
Berlin	41/27/pc	36/27/pc
Bermuda	70/64/c	71/66/c
Bogota	66/50/r	67/48/r
Brussels	38/28/c	39/32/pc
Bucharest	52/41/pc	63/46/pc
Budapest	46/42/c	47/36/c
Bueno Aires	88/74/pc	84/71/pc
Cairo	67/53/s	71/51/s
Cancun	81/73/pc	83/76/pc
Caracas	87/73/pc	87/72/sh
Casablanca	64/51/c	61/39/pc
Copenhagen	40/35/sn	40/32/pc
Dublin	38/31/pc	41/27/pc
Edmonton	24/7/pc	21/9/pc
Frankfurt	40/28/pc	37/26/sn
Geneva	38/31/r	38/19/c
Guadalajara	81/39/c	79/41/pc
Havana	81/54/s	83/58/pc
Helsinki	36/32/sn	36/32/sn
Hong Kong	63/52/pc	67/57/pc
Istanbul	60/56/pc	64/54/pc
Jerusalem	58/42/s	61/44/s
Johannesburg	85/60/pc	83/62/pc
Kabul	37/16/s	38/23/c
Kingston	86/72/s	87/73/s
Kyiv	42/40/pc	50/41/c
Lima	76/67/pc	76/68/pc
Lisbon	58/47/sh	54/45/sh
London	38/28/pc	42/30/pc
Madrid	51/36/sh	44/33/sh
Manila	87/77/c	86/77/c
Mexico City	79/41/pc	78/45/c
Monterrey	82/57/pc	82/51/s
Montreal	28/25/c	36/19/c
Moscow	34/32/sn	37/35/sf
Munich	39/31/pc	35/26/sn
Nairobi	80/58/pc	84/58/s
Nassau	77/61/s	80/67/s
New Delhi	62/44/pc	61/46/pc
Oslo	35/32/sn	35/25/sn
Ottawa	25/23/sn	33/18/pc
Panama City	91/70/pc	89/72/pc
Paris	38/30/r	40/31/pc
Prague	39/30/pc	34/24/c
Rio de Janeiro	86/78/s	87/75/t
Riyadh	70/46/pc	63/43/s
Rome	59/50/r	55/44/r
Santiago	84/56/pc	90/58/s
Seoul	36/21/pc	38/15/s
Singapore	89/76/c	85/76/sh
Sofia	53/45/pc	61/44/pc
Stockholm	36/33/c	36/30/pc
Sydney	82/70/pc	88/67/t
Taipei	61/55/c	60/56/c
Tehran	45/35/c	48/35/s
Tokyo	50/41/pc	54/39/pc
Toronto	40/36/r	39/30/c
Trinidad	83/75/pc	84/75/s
Vancouver	47/43/r	47/35/c
Vienna	45/35/c	44/31/c
Warsaw	42/32/r	41/29/sn
Winnipeg	12/5/i	16/7/c

Weather(W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice. **POP:** Probability of Precipitation.

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Chicago Tribune
BUSINESS

Hotels getting close to pre-pandemic levels

More convention travelers in 2023 could close the gap

By Brian J. Rogal
Chicago Tribune

Crowds of people attend The Midwest Clinic at McCormick Place West in Chicago on Dec. 21. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The events calendar for McCormick Place is filling up, with interest mounting among potential attendees and exhibitors, and that means 2023 could be the year convention travelers return in big numbers to downtown Chicago, providing a much-needed boost to hotels still suffering from the ongoing pandemic.

More than 2.5 million people are expected to attend 2023 events at the convention complex, up from the nearly 1.5 million who showed up last year, according to Cynthia McCafferty, a spokesperson for the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, the corporation that owns McCormick Place and Navy Pier.

Most attendees will pack downtown hotels, which have already enjoyed a strong revival of tourism.

"There is no doubt the continued post-COVID snapback in travel is absolutely happening," said John Rutledge, CEO of Oxford Capital Group, which developed a portfolio of luxury downtown hotels including LondonHouse Chicago and The Godfrey Chicago.

But a convention revival in 2023 may not be enough to bring the downtown market all the way back from the brink. Many smaller, boutique hotels catering to tourists are doing well, but business travel remains below average, and some major establishments dependent on both those visitors and conventions are still weighed down by debt, a hangover from the 2020 onset of COVID-19, which led to empty rooms and plummeting revenues.

"The big supertanker assets like the Palmer House Hilton were broken during COVID and have a long way to go before getting back to normal," Rutledge said.

Last summer, Wells Fargo Bank took control of the 610-room JW Marriott Chicago hotel with a winning bid of nearly $251 million during a foreclosure auction. And a county judge ruled Palmer House Hilton Chicago owner Thor Equities defaulted on its $333 million mortgage for the 1,641-room hotel at 17 E. Monroe St.

Other hotels are ramping up operations. The 182-room Park Hyatt Chicago at 800 N. Michigan Ave. reopened in July after a $50 million renovation, and General Manager Rike Erdbrink said tourists and groups traveling to weddings and other social events are already booking rooms at a healthy pace.

"The luxury hotel segment in particular is seeing a bounce back in leisure travel," she said. "And from what we're seeing, and the trends we follow, 2023 will definitely be stronger than 2022."

Chicago hotels are getting close to the occupancy levels hit in 2019. In the third quarter of this year, downtown's occupancy rate was 74.8%, down from 83.6% over the same period three years ago, according to data analytics firm STR.

The number of visitors to the McCormick complex currently forecast for this year by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority will still be fewer than in 2019 when between 2.8 million and 2.9 million people attended about 270 events, including conventions at McCormick Place, college basketball games at the complex's Wintrust Arena, shows at Arie Crown Theater and conferences at neighboring hotels. Just 146 events are officially on the 2023 schedule, but McCafferty said she expects that number to grow, with 12 new events scheduled in just the past month.

Officials from the International Housewares Association said it's difficult to predict how many people will check out its annual four-day Inspired Home Show, which opens March 4, because most attendees don't register until February. But organizers consider it a good sign that more exhibitors are eager to share the latest kitchen gadgets and household products with conventiongoers.

Around 1,500 exhibitors plan to display their merchandise, up from less than 1,000 in 2022, when about 20,000 people attended, said Leana Salamah, the association's vice president of marketing. Last year was the first time the convention was held since getting called off in 2020 due to COVID-19, the first major show in the U.S. to cancel. The convention has been in Chicago for more than 80 years, and pre-COVID, more than 2,000 exhibitors would typically show up.

"It's not all the way back to pre-COVID numbers, but we didn't expect to reach that goal this year, and the dam is starting to break," Salamah said.

Another worry for the hotel industry is how the use of Zoom and other online tools will affect conventions. Many shows at McCormick Place now offer online options, where participants pay to view information sessions or talks while enjoying the comforts of home, avoiding worries about COVID-19 as well as the hassle of traveling to Chicago and paying for a hotel.

A spokesperson for the American Society of Clinical Oncology said the organization offered an online option for its June 2022 annual meeting, and although the event attracted 42,350 total participants, tying the record-setting 2019, 30% were online. The organization decided to make the online option permanent but expects its conventiongoers will return in bigger numbers going forward, especially if there are no severe COVID-19 flare-ups.

"We were thrilled to see record attendance for the 2022 Annual Meeting despite the remaining effects of the pandemic, and pleasantly surprised by the number of attendees in person," the spokesperson said in an email. "We believe that the in-person experience remains the premiere experience as education takes place not only in the session rooms but in hallway conversations which are hard to replicate online."

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority does not track online participation, McCafferty said, but agrees it will have less impact in the future, especially for conventions such as the Inspired Home Show or the 10-day Chicago Auto Show, which opens Feb. 11, where visitors primarily want to check out the latest products.

"You can't re-create a showroom floor online," she said.

Rutledge said the ability to hold business meetings over Zoom will also permanently cut business travel, but by last summer 60% of business travel had already returned to Oxford's downtown Chicago properties such as the 452-room LondonHouse, and he expects by 2024 that will climb to between 75% and 90%. And with business travelers increasingly extending stays into long weekends, what hotel owners call "bleisure," the gap between present and pre-COVID-19 revenues is narrowing for many hotels.

"All of this bodes well for 2023, even though the conventions calendar is not quite as robust," Rutledge said, "and overall, by 2024 travel demand should be at or near pre-COVID levels, but with a different mix."

Downtown hotels have also been able to hike rates over the past three years, further narrowing the gap, said Brian Arevalo, senior vice president of HVS, an industry consultant. The average daily rate for rooms rose from $214.89 in 2022 to $251.84 in last year's third quarter, STR found, so any significant bumps in occupancy, whether from returning business travelers, international visitors or conventiongoers, could get Chicago hotels back to normal.

"We're seeing a lot of suburban markets where occupancy and demand are fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and even though the downtown is lagging, it's nothing to be alarmed about."

State auto dealers file appeal after challenge over EV sales dismissed

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

An R1T truck travels outside the Rivian electric vehicle plant in Normal, Illinois, on April 11. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The Illinois Automobile Dealers Association has appealed a December court ruling that allowed EV automakers Rivian and Lucid to continue cutting out the middleman and selling directly to consumers.

The appeal, filed Friday in Chicago, challenges that decision and, to a large extent, the evolving EV sales model nationwide.

"We think the law is pretty clear: You can't be a manufacturer and a dealer," said Joe McMahon, executive director of the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association.

"The Illinois Vehicle Code basically states that you have to go through franchised dealers."

Henry Haupt, a spokesman for the secretary of state's office, which licenses auto dealers in Illinois, declined to comment on the appeal.

In December a Cook County judge dismissed a 2021 lawsuit brought by the dealers against the startup EV manufacturers for allegedly violating Illinois vehicle franchise requirements. The court ruled the state was correct in issuing dealer licenses to Rivian and Lucid, as it had previously done with Tesla.

The association, which represents more than 700 auto dealers operating 2,300 franchises across the state, cited the Illinois Vehicle Code and the Illinois Motor Vehicle Franchise Act as mandating that all vehicle sales to the public "must be made through licensed and independent franchised" dealers, an argument it is renewing in the appeal.

Leslie Hayward, head of policy communications for Rivian, declined to comment, while Lucid Motors did not respond to a request for comment on the appeal.

Tesla, the leading EV manufacturer, pioneered the direct-to-consumer sales model after the introduction of its Model S in 2012. McMahon claims Tesla was licensed to open dealerships in Illinois in 2017 as part of a one-time agreement with the secretary of state to avoid litigation.

The auto dealers, the secretary of state and Tesla entered into an administrative consent order in 2019 agreeing that Tesla could have no more than 13 dealer licenses in Illinois.

In 2020 the Illinois attorney general's office issued "an informal opinion" stating that the motor vehicle law does not expressly require new manufacturers to establish franchise dealerships to sell their vehicles, opening the door for Rivian and Lucid to launch their own direct-to-consumer sales networks, according to the dealers' lawsuit.

Fueled by legislation, incentives and consumer demand, EV sales are growing nationwide, with the market share more than doubling last year to 5.1% of new vehicle sales through November, according to car shopping website Edmunds.

Rivian, the startup EV truck manufacturer that launched production at its downstate Normal plant in September 2021, has struggled to meet growing demand. The California-based company produced 24,337 vehicles last year, missing a downwardly revised production target of 25,000.

The converted Mitsubishi plant has 7,000 employees and an annual production capacity of 150,000 vehicles but has been hampered by supply chain issues. Rivian had 114,000 electric pickup trucks and SUVs on back order as of November, the company said.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has set the goal of having 1 million electric vehicles on the road by 2030. There is still a long way to go, with 57,311 EVs registered in Illinois as of late December, or less than 1% of the state's 10.3 million vehicles, according to Haupt.

As automakers go electric and sales ramp up, Illinois dealers want to stay squarely in the mix, McMahon said.

In addition to the lawsuit against Rivian and Lucid, the association has filed a protest with the secretary of state's office against Ford, alleging the automaker is withholding allocation of EVs to dealers that don't "voluntarily" participate in a potentially costly certification program, McMahon said.

The complaint, which was brought by 27 Ford dealerships in Illinois, said the automaker is violating the state's franchise act by requiring investments of up to $1.5 million per dealership on equipment and staff training; the installation of Level 3 public charging stations; and changes to their existing sales and service agreements, including exclusive web-based sales and nonnegotiable pricing on EVs.

Ford, which became the No. 2 EV automaker in the U.S. behind Tesla in 2022, defended the certification program as "doubling down" on dealerships and benefiting customers.

"EVs require specialized equipment, training and charging infrastructure to support sales, service and ownership for our customers — these are the core elements of the Model e EV Program," Ford spokesman Marty Gunsberg said in an email Friday. "Ford provided national investment estimates when the program was announced, with instructions for dealers to complete their own due diligence as the actual cost will vary by dealer."

Gunsberg said 1,920 dealers, or 65% of Ford's U.S. network, enrolled in the EV program. During the rollout "multiple dealers have reported costs coming in well below Ford's estimates," he said.

At the same time, Gunsberg acknowledged that some dealers with limited EV penetration chose not to participate. Dealers will have a second chance to enroll in 2025 as Ford scales its EV production, he said.

Haupt declined to comment on the hearing request before the Motor Vehicle Review Board, which is scheduled for Feb. 14 in Chicago.

rchannick@chicagotribune.com

Fed restrictions on virus relief funds to ease soon

Local, state governments can spend on items not directly related to pandemic

By David A. Lieb
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — State and local governments will soon gain new flexibility to spend billions of federal coronavirus relief dollars on things not directly related to the pandemic, including new roads and bridges and aid to people affected by wildfires, floods and other natural disasters.

The broadened spending authority for the previously approved pandemic aid was one of many of provisions wrapped into a recently enacted $1.7 trillion spending bill for the federal government's 2023 budget year. It comes after city, county and state officials lobbied for more than a year for greater flexibility in how they can use a $350 billion pool of aid approved by President Joe Biden and the Democratic-led Congress in March 2021.

The American Rescue Plan act included federal aid for all levels of government — from states and territories to tiny towns and villages — that was intended to help cover the costs of responding to COVID-19, shore up government finances and invest in longer-term projects to strengthen communities.

Though the program had considerable flexibility as originally implemented by the Treasury Department, some uses for the money remained limited. The newly expanded spending options are expected to take effect by late February, after the agency releases updated guidance.

Under the revised spending rules, states and local governments could use their federal pandemic relief funds to provide the local matching amount necessary to draw down additional federal grants for road and transportation projects, including some funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed by Biden in November 2021.

Governments will be allowed to use up to $10 million or 30% of their American Rescue Plan allotment, whichever is greater, for such transportation infrastructure.

There is no cap on how much of their allotment can go toward natural disaster relief, such as temporary housing, food and financial assistance.

"The process at FEMA can be time-consuming and a little burdensome," said Susan Frederick, senior federal affairs counsel at the National Conference of State Legislatures. "This would be funding that would be readily available to the states in a more immediate fashion than having to go through all the hoops."

About one-quarter of counties across the U.S. currently have federally declared disasters, said Mark Ritacco, chief government affairs officer at the National Association of Counties.

The greater flexibility will primarily benefit larger governments that received more than $10 million under the American Rescue Plan. That's because a Treasury Department rule released one year ago allowed all governments to assume up to $10 million of pandemic-related revenue losses, qualifying an equal amount to be spent on general government services that could be construed to include roads or disaster relief.

Exxon Mobil Refinery in Billings, Mont. Company scientists made accurate predictions on global warming, a study says. **MATTHEW BROWN/AP**

Study: Exxon knew dangers

Company-funded science was 'actually astonishing' in its accuracy on global warming

By Seth Borenstein and Cathy Bussewitz
Associated Press

DENVER — Exxon Mobil's scientists were remarkably accurate in their predictions about global warming, even as the company made public statements that contradicted its own scientists' conclusions, a new study says.

The study in the journal Science last week looked at research that Exxon funded that didn't just confirm what climate scientists were saying, but used more than a dozen different computer models that forecast the coming warming with precision equal to or better than government and academic scientists.

This was during the same time that the oil giant publicly doubted that warming was real and dismissed climate models' accuracy. Exxon said its understanding of climate change evolved over the years and that critics are misunderstanding its earlier research.

Scientists, governments, activists and news sites, including Inside Climate News and the Los Angeles Times, several years ago reported that "Exxon knew" about the science of climate change since about 1977 all while publicly casting doubt. What the new study does is detail how accurate Exxon funded research was.

From 63% to 83% of those projections fit strict standards for accuracy and generally predicted correctly that the globe would warm about 0.36 degrees (0.2 degrees Celsius) a decade.

The Exxon-funded science was "actually astonishing" in its precision and accuracy, said study co-author Naomi Oreskes, a Harvard science history professor. But she added so was the "hypocrisy because so much of the Exxon Mobil disinformation for so many years ... was the claim that climate models weren't reliable."

Study lead author Geoffrey Supran, who started the work at Harvard and now is a environmental science professor at the University of Miami, said this is different than what was previously found in documents about the oil company.

"We've dug into not just to the language, the rhetoric in these documents, but also the data. And I'd say in that sense, our analysis really seals the deal on 'Exxon knew'," Supran said. It "gives us airtight evidence that Exxon Mobil accurately predicted global warming years before, then turned around and attacked the science underlying it."

The paper quoted then-Exxon CEO Lee Raymond in 1999 as saying future climate "projections are based on completely unproven climate models, or more often, sheer speculation," while his successor in 2013 called models "not competent."

Exxon's understanding of climate science developed along with the broader scientific community, and its four decades of research in climate science resulted in more than 150 papers, including 50 peer-reviewed publications, said company spokesman Todd Spitler.

"This issue has come up several times in recent years and, in each case, our answer is the same: those who talk about how 'Exxon Knew' are wrong in their conclusions," Spitler said in an emailed statement. "Some have sought to misrepresent facts and Exxon Mobil's position on climate science, and its support for effective policy solutions, by recasting well intended, internal policy debates as an attempted company disinformation campaign."

EU faces subsidy rift before confronting US

By Raf Casert and Samuel Petrequin
Associated Press

KIRUNA, Sweden — As the European Union thinks about injecting more subsidies into its industry to counter U.S. efforts to ramp up its green technologies sector, fears only increase that the continent's giants will profit at the cost of the small member states.

And if the EU's approval of subsidies to counter the impact of Russia's war in Ukraine are anything to go by, such fears are justified.

Sweden, which holds the EU presidency, warned last week about the need to preserve a balance to make sure that Germany and France don't strong-arm smaller member states and boost their national powerhouses with billions in subsidies that others simply don't have.

It would fundamentally threaten the EU's cherished "single market," where all industries from the 27 nations, be they from wealthy Germany or poorer Bulgaria, can compete as much as possible on equal footing.

The EU's response to the U.S. subsidies imbedded in the $369 billion Inflation Reduction Act must avoid "a competition on who can provide the most state aid" within the EU, Swedish Industry Minister Ebba Busch said.

The EU member states are already gearing up for precisely that battle when their leaders meet for a summit Feb. 9-10 in Brussels.

Most of the public debate will center on how to confront Washington without unleashing a trans-Atlantic trade war, but among member states, the urge to protect national interests will be at play as well.

Subsidies that member states can use to counter Washington and keep green industries in Europe are a given, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed the idea of a European sovereignty fund to support the ecological transition of the bloc's industry.

The point will be to make any effort more balanced than the nearly $587 billion in state aid approved up to now to allow member states deal with the impact of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Airlines call to increase funds, staff for FAA fix

By David Koenig
Associated Press

DALLAS — Airline executives bristled last year when government officials, led by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, blamed the carriers for causing thousands of flight cancellations and mistreating their customers.

The shoe is on the other foot now after a technology outage at the Federal Aviation Administration grounded planes for a time last week, but airline leaders are taking a different tack.

They've avoided harsh words and score-settling, instead calling on Congress and the White House to give the FAA more staff and more money to upgrade its systems.

"The FAA, I know, is doing the very best they can with what they have, but we need to stand behind the FAA," Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said.

"Investment is required," American Airlines CEO Robert Isom said. "It's going to be billions of dollars, and it's not something that is done overnight."

Airlines have been pushing the FAA to modernize the air-traffic control system for years.

The airlines argue that a faster and complete rollout of a so-called NextGen plan to modernize the national airspace system will make flights more efficient and reliable.

The initial response from Capitol Hill, however, has been to demand answers from Buttigieg about last week's debacle.

On Friday, a letter to Buttigieg signed by 71 Republicans and 51 Democrats in Congress said "the FAA was well aware of the issues facing the NOTAM system" that failed.

The letter said Congress directed the FAA in 2018 to modernize the notice to air missions system, and FAA requested money to replace "vintage hardware" that supports it.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Close call at JFK is under scrutiny

NEW YORK — Officials are investigating a close call at a New York airport Friday night between an American Airlines plane that was crossing a runway and a Delta Air Lines plane that was preparing for takeoff..

After an alert from an air traffic controller, Delta's departing Boeing 737 plane came to a safe stop on the John F. Kennedy International Airport runway as the other crossed in front around 8:45 p.m., the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement.

The Delta plane stopped about 1,000 feet from where the American Airlines plane had crossed from an adjacent taxiway, according to the FAA statement.

The Federal Aviation Administration will investigate. The National Transportation Safety Board is also looking into the case.

'Cyber incident' disrupts UK mail

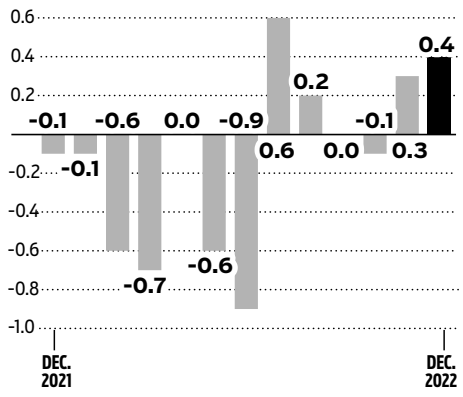
LONDON — Britain's Royal Mail asked customers Monday to refrain from sending items to overseas destinations as it tries to address a "cyber incident" that is temporarily preventing the postal service from delivering letters or parcels to other countries.

Royal Mail said it continues to experience "severe service disruption" without providing further details. The British government's National Cyber Security Center has said it's aware of the incident.

"To support faster recovery when our service is restored and to prevent a build-up of export items in our network, we're asking customers not to post international items until further notice," the mail service said. "Items that have already been dispatched may be subject to delays."

Real earnings

Monthly percent change in real (adjusted for inflation) average hourly earnings for all employees, seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics TNS

Working Lunch newsletter: Get the latest business news headlines, delivered to your inbox midday weekdays. Go to **chicagotribune.com/workinglunch**

Who's Who in Local Business: Have a promotion or hire you'd like to tell the world about? Go to **placeanad.chicagotribune.com/whos-who**

A firefighter works the scene of a deadly row house fire Jan. 5, 2022, in Philadelphia. Fires in homes are now harder to fight because of combustible modern materials. **MATT ROURKE/AP**

Fires are becoming deadlier as firefighter ranks dwindle

By Rebecca Santana
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fires feeding off modern materials found in homes are burning faster and becoming deadlier at the same time that fire departments across the country are struggling to retain and recruit firefighters, officials say.

Officials with various firefighting-related agencies were in Washington last week to call attention to fire-related problems roughly a year after two deadly fires days apart in 2022 — one in Philadelphia and one in New York — killed 29 people. They're also recommending a number of ways to deal with the problem.

Last year nearly 2,500 people died as a result of fires, including 96 firefighters, according to U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell. More than 1 million structures caught fire and more than 7.5 million acres burned in wildfires last year, she said.

The number of fires being reported to fire departments has been going down, said Steve Kerber, vice president and executive director of the Fire Safety Research Institute, but fires are now fueled by greater use of synthetic materials in everyday items like couches and as a result burn much more quickly. Faster fires lessen the time residents can escape and fire departments can respond, Kerber said. Over the last decade fire deaths have increased by 30%, he said.

At the same time, Americans are increasingly bringing into their homes things like scooters or electric bikes that use lithium ion batteries. If one of those is damaged and starts to burn, it can become an explosive fire in seconds, he said.

"Today, you have the least amount of time to safely exit your home than any time in history," Kerber said.

At the same time, volunteer and paid fire departments around the country are struggling to retain or recruit firefighters.

Eric Bernard, board of the National Volunteer Fire Council and a volunteer firefighter in Maryland, said many volunteer fire organizations in big states such as Pennsylvania or New York have seen a steady decline in members since the 1980s. But since the pandemic there has been a "massive" drop in people who want to join both volunteer and career fire departments, he said, and more firefighters are retiring. Bernard attributed some of that to the stress of going on calls during the pandemic.

"That fatigue and that exhaustion physically, mentally, has caused many of the career people to retire, retire early," Bernard said, adding, "We have health issues, mental health, post-traumatic stress and members that catch COVID."

Fire officials are making a number of recommendations to solve the problems, including creating an apprenticeship program to address the firefighter shortages and help diversify the ranks of firefighters; helping prepare and equip all firefighters to deal with wildfires driven by climate change; implementing and enforcing building codes; and making sure affordable housing meets safety standards. They're also advocating for suicide prevention initiatives and a comprehensive strategy to battle cancer in firefighters.

Despite stock fall, Roku goes ahead with plan to make TVs

By Wendy Lee
Los Angeles Times

Roku will produce 11 television models with screen sizes ranging from 24 inches to 75 inches. **JOHN LOCHER/AP**

SAN JOSE, Calif. — During the pandemic, Roku reaped the benefits of the streaming boom, as consumers used its platform to stream movies and TV shows from services like Netflix and Disney+.

The San Jose-based company sold lots of ads on its platform and took in significant revenue from new streaming services seeking to connect with Roku's more than 65 million users. Roku also began investing in new original programs from its ad-supported streaming service, the Roku Channel, doubling its staff in Santa Monica in 2021.

But over the past year, some investors have grown wary of Roku's direction, as the company weathers a weaker advertising market and delves into non-TV-related products like video doorbells. Amid a broader rethinking of the streaming business model, Roku's stock price plunged more than 80% in 2022.

In the face of these headwinds, the company is branching out. Last week, Roku announced it would make and design its own branded TVs. The 11 models, which will sell in the U.S. in the spring, will range from 24 to 75 inches for $119 to $999.

"We believe that a TV made and designed by Roku, just makes sense," said Chris Larson, vice president of retail strategy, in a December news briefing at Roku's headquarters in California.

The move will help Roku build and maintain its presence in smart TVs, as other companies including Google and Samsung are distributing their own rival software, said Paul Gray, research director, consumer electronics for London-based Omdia.

"The TV and video market is turning into a battle of platforms," Gray said. "As a result, Roku needs to continue to nurture its installed base."

Whether the TV push will help regain investor confidence in Roku remains to be seen.

Roku had projected its fourth-quarter sales would be lower than a year ago in part because of the weaker advertising market. In November, the company announced it would cut 200 U.S. jobs, about 7% of its workforce. Roku makes money through sales of its hardware, licensing of its software, advertising and commissions.

"Our view is that Roku is indeed Broku as a stock (and it remains to be seen if it is Broku as a company amidst all of these hurdles)," wrote Jeffrey Wlodarczak, a principal and analyst at Pivotal Research Group in a Nov. 3 note. He has a sell rating on the stock.

Roku, founded in 2002, is seen as one of the pioneers of streaming, offering the first connected TV device to stream Netflix, and continues to sell devices that plug into TVs so consumers can access streaming services.

In 2014, Roku expanded its reach by partnering with TV manufacturers to sell Roku's software already installed on smart TVs and will continue to do so.

Selling its own TVs is a natural progression for the company, executives said.

"This move could fully realize the full potential of our Roku TV program by bringing our content, our award-winning operating system, and hardware all together under one roof, so making our own branded TVs is that natural next step in our company's evolution," Larson said.

Roku is the No. 1 streaming operating system in the U.S., with a 33% market share, executives said.

But rivals are not far off, according to data from research firm Omdia. In the third quarter, Roku had a 26.5% share of operating systems in North America, while Samsung's Tizen had a 27.4% share and Google's Android had 13.3%, according to Omdia data.

Roku is following a path similar to other tech companies such as Google, which had supplied operating software to other manufacturers before making its own branded Google Pixel phones in 2016.

The company has acknowledged, however, that a looming recession could affect its business.

Roku forecast that its fourth-quarter revenue would be $800 million, down from $865.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2021, in part due to weakness in the advertising market. It projected a net loss of $245 million in the quarter, versus a profit of $23.7 million from the same period a year ago. Roku reported a $122 million net loss in the third quarter.

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NATION & WORLD

White House: No Biden visitor logs

Names of guests to private home sought in GOP probe of files

By Michael D. Shear
The New York Times

President Joe Biden walks Monday into the White House after returning on Marine One. **PETE MAROVICH/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

WASHINGTON — White House officials said Monday that there are no visitor logs that keep track of who comes and goes from President Joe Biden's personal residence in Wilmington, Delaware, where six classified documents were discovered in recent days.

A top House Republican demanded Sunday that the White House turn over visitor logs for Biden's home, citing what he called the "serious national security implications" of the fact that the documents may have been accessible to people without security clearances.

"It is troubling that classified documents have been improperly stored at the home of President Biden for at least six years, raising questions about who may have reviewed or had access to classified information," wrote Rep. James R. Comer, R-Ky., chair of the Oversight and Accountability Committee.

But a spokesperson for the White House Counsel's Office said no such logs exist because Biden's home is not an official government property.

"Like every president across decades of modern history, his personal residence is personal," spokesperson Ian Sams said. "But upon taking office, President Biden restored the norm and tradition of keeping White House visitors' logs, including publishing them regularly, after the previous administration ended them."

Anthony Guglielmi, chief of communications for the Secret Service, said his agency does not track people who visit a president's personal home, either.

"The Secret Service doesn't maintain visitor logs at the private residences of protectees," Guglielmi said. "The visitor logs that are kept at government buildings are part of the National Archives and Records Administration, and while we have access to those, we are not the custodian of those records and logs."

The demands by Republicans for transparency in the case of Biden's classified documents highlight the political danger for the president, who criticized former President Donald Trump when boxes of classified records were found at his Florida residence after FBI agents searched the estate.

Last week, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed a special counsel to investigate the documents found in Biden's home and office. In November, Garland appointed a different special counsel to investigate Trump's handling of sensitive documents and his failure to return all of them, even after being subpoenaed.

The two cases are different.

Trump fought with officials for months about whether to return government materials in his possession after he was requested to do so. In Biden's case, his aides and lawyers returned the documents and contacted authorities after discovering them on their own.

In addition, documents found at Biden's residence were in a garage in his private home, which largely serves as a gathering place for the president and his family on the weekends. By contrast, Trump's Florida estate, known as Mar-a-Lago, is a private club that regularly hosts large parties and events, often close to where the classified documents were found.

On social media Monday, Trump mocked Biden for keeping classified documents in his home. He also bragged: "Mar-a-Lago is a highly secured facility, with Security Cameras all over the place, and watched over by staff & our great Secret Service. I have INFO on everyone!"

But Biden's Republican critics, including Comer, are seeking transparency in ways they have not for Trump.

Asked on Monday whether the Oversight Committee would be requesting from Trump the "INFO on everyone" from Mar-a-Lago, a spokesperson for Comer declined to answer. Instead, he offered a statement that did not address why the committee had sought visitor logs from Biden's home, but not Trump's.

"The American people deserve transparency, not secrecy," spokesperson Austin Hacker said. "We will continue to press the Biden administration for answers about who had access to these classified documents."

Aides to former presidents lashed out at Comer's request, noting that former administrations had not kept logs of the people who came and went from a president's private home.

"Either completely uninformed or deliberately misleading," Eric Schultz, who was a spokesperson for President Barack Obama, tweeted on Monday. "Not how this works."

Schultz noted that there were no logs kept for the homes of Trump, former President George W. Bush or former President George H.W. Bush.

"No logs from Trump's homes, Crawford ranch, Kennebunkport, or any President's family home," he wrote.

Administrations do keep visitor logs for the White House.

During Obama's tenure, officials released those records several times each year in an effort to be candid about who was meeting with Obama and other top officials, though the names of some visitors were excluded.

Trump's White House did not release visitor logs. Biden restarted the practice when he took office.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Civilian death toll among war's deadliest in months

Crews sift through building's wreckage from Russian attack

By Vasilisa Stepanenko and Andrew Meldrum
Associated Press

Volunteers hand out food Monday to survivors who lost their homes in Saturday's missile strike in Dnipro, Ukraine. About 1,700 people lived in the multistory building. **SPENCER PLATT/GETTY**

DNIPRO, Ukraine — Ukrainian emergency crews Monday sifted through what was left of a Dnipro apartment building destroyed by a Russian missile, placing bodies from one of the war's deadliest single attacks in months in black bags and gingerly carrying them across steep piles of rubble.

Authorities said the death toll from Saturday's strike rose to 40 and that 30 people remained missing Monday. Tall cranes swung across the jagged gaps in a row of residential towers, the engines growling as residents of one of Ukraine's largest cities watched largely in silence under a gray sky.

About 1,700 people lived in the multistory building, and search and rescue crews have worked nonstop since the missile strike to locate victims and survivors in the wreckage. The regional administration said 39 people have been rescued and at least 75 were wounded.

The reported death toll put it among the deadliest attacks on Ukrainian civilians since before the summer, according to Associated Press-Frontline War Crimes Watch project. Residents said the apartment tower did not house any military facilities.

Oleksander Anyskevych said he was in his apartment when the missile struck.

"Boom — and that's it. We saw that we were alive and that's all," Anyskevych said Monday as he went to the site to see his wrecked apartment.

Dnipro residents took flowers, candles and toys to the ruins.

"All of us could be in that place," local resident Iryna Skrypnyk said.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, called the strike, and others like it, "inhumane aggression" because it targeted civilians. "There will be no impunity for these crimes," he said in a tweet Sunday.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the Dnipro strike, saying "attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian law" and "must end immediately," U.N. associate spokesperson Stephanie Tremblay said Monday.

Asked about the strike, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov suggested the Dnipro building was hit as a result of Ukrainian air defense actions.

The strike on the building came amid a wider barrage of Russian cruise missiles across Ukraine. The Ukrainian military said Sunday that it did not have the means to intercept the type of Russian missile that hit the residential building in Dnipro.

Fierce fighting continued to rage Monday in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province, where military analysts have said both sides are likely suffering heavy troop casualties.

Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk province make up the Donbas, an industrial region bordering Russia that Russian President Vladimir Putin identified as a focus from the war's outset. Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Kyiv's forces there since 2014.

The Russian and Belarusian air forces began a joint exercise Monday in Belarus, which borders Ukraine and served as a staging ground for Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine. The drills are set to run through Feb. 1. Russia has sent its warplanes to Belarus for the drills.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, reported signs of the Kremlin taking steps to turn its Ukraine invasion into "a major conventional war" after months of embarrassing military reversals.

"The Kremlin is likely preparing to conduct a decisive strategic action in the next six months intended to regain the initiative and end Ukraine's current string of operational successes," the Institute for the Study of War said in a report late Sunday.

It noted reports indicating the Russian military command was in "serious preparations" for an expanded mobilization effort, conserving mobilized personnel for future use, while seeking to boost military industrial production and reshuffling its command structure.

That means Ukraine's Western allies "will need to continue supporting Ukraine in the long run," the think tank said.

NATO member nations have sought in recent days to reassure Ukraine that they will stay the course.

The United Kingdom has pledged tanks and the U.S. military's new, expanded combat training of Ukrainian forces began Sunday in Germany.

Rescuers inspect the wreckage Monday at the site of a plane crash in Pokhara, Nepal. **PRAKASH MATHEMA/GETTY-AFP**

Nepal plane crash data, voice recorders found

By Anish Bhattarai, Krutika Pathi and Sheikh Saaliq
Associated Press

POKHARA, Nepal — Search teams retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders Monday from a passenger plane that plummeted into a gorge on approach to a new airport in the foothills of the Himalayas, officials said.

Investigators looked for the cause of Nepal's deadliest plane crash in 30 years.

At least 69 of the 72 people aboard were killed, and officials believe the three missing are also dead. Rescuers combed through the debris, scattered down a 984-foot-deep gorge, for them.

Many of the passengers on Sunday's flight were returning home to Pokhara, though the city is also popular with tourists since it's the gateway to the Annapurna Circuit hiking trail.

On Monday night, relatives and friends were gathered outside a local hospital, some shouting at officials to speed up the postmortems so they could hold funerals for their loved ones.

It's still not clear what caused the crash, which took place less than a minute's flight from the airport on a mild day with little wind.

Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority said the aircraft last made contact with the airport, which began operations two weeks ago, from near Seti Gorge. A witness who recorded footage of the plane's descent said it looked like a normal landing until the plane suddenly veered to the left.

"I saw that, and I was shocked," Diwas Bohora said. "I thought that today everything will be finished here after it crashes, I will also be dead."

Amit Singh, an experienced pilot and founder of India's Safety Matters Foundation, said Bohora's video appears to show a stall, a situation in which a plane loses lift, especially likely at low airspeeds.

Taliban edict causes policy dilemma

US, partners want to help Afghan women, not cave in to faction

By Ellen Knickmeyer
Associated Press

A midwife administers a prenatal examination on a woman in the Jawzjan province of Afghanistan. **SAVE THE CHILDREN 2022**

WASHINGTON — For an idled worker at a Kabul-based aid group, Abaad, that helps abused Afghan women, frightened and often tearful calls are coming in, not only from her clients but also from her female colleagues.

A Dec. 24 order from the Taliban barring aid groups from employing women is paralyzing deliveries that help keep millions of Afghans alive, and threatening humanitarian services countrywide. As another result, thousands of women who work for such organizations across the war-battered country are facing the loss of income they desperately need to feed their own families.

The prohibition is posing one of the biggest policy challenges over Afghanistan for the United States and other countries since the U.S. military withdrawal in August 2021 opened the door for the Taliban takeover. Those nations face the difficult task of crafting an international response that neither further worsens the plight of millions of aid-dependent Afghans nor caves in to the Taliban's crackdown on women.

The United Nations estimates that 85% of nongovernmental aid organizations in Afghanistan have partially or fully shut down operations because of the ban, which is the Taliban's latest step to drive women from public life.

Abaad was among those suspending its work. Its female employees provided support and counseling to women who endured rape, beatings, forced marriages or other domestic abuse.

Female clients told the Abaad worker that without the group's help, they fear they will wind up on Kabul's streets. For the worker herself and thousands like her across Afghanistan, they depend on their paychecks to survive in a broken economy where aid officials say 97% of the population is in poverty or at risk of it. One colleague told her she was contemplating suicide.

The aid worker and others interviewed expressed hope that the United States, the United Nations and others will persuade the Taliban to relent on the ban.

"They should find a solution, find a way to support people here in Afghanistan," she said, requesting anonymity for security reasons.

Several leading global aid organizations that have suspended operations are urging U.N. aid agencies to do the same. They are asking the Biden administration to use its influence to ensure the international community stands firm.

The U.S. is the largest single humanitarian donor to Afghanistan. It also has abiding interests in quelling security threats from extremist groups in Afghanistan, one of the tasks for which it hopes to maintain some limited relationship with the Taliban.

A U.S. official involved in the discussions predicted a final international response that falls somewhere between suspending all aid operations, which the official said would be inhumane and ineffective, and the other extreme of fully acquiescing to the Taliban ban.

One proposal being looked at in the administration is stopping all but lifesaving aid to Afghans, according to another U.S. official and nongovernmental officials familiar with the discussion. The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss ongoing deliberations and they all spoke on condition of anonymity.

Aid group officials and analysts point to the difficulty of narrowing down what is lifesaving assistance, however. Food aid, certainly. But what about other forms of support such as maternal care, which has helped more than halve Afghanistan's maternal mortality rate since the 1990s?

Major nongovernmental aid organizations say that without female workers, it's impossible for them to effectively reach the women and children who make up 75% of those in need. That's because of Afghanistan's conservative customs and the Taliban's rules prohibiting contact between unrelated men and women.

"Our suspensions are operational necessities," said Anastasia Moran, senior officer for humanitarian policy at the International Rescue Committee. "It's not being punitive. It's not trying to withdraw services. It's not a negotiating tactic."

The Taliban crackdown is recreating conditions from their first time in power in the mid-1990s, when successive edicts drove women out of schools, jobs, aid work and increasingly into their homes. Taliban leaders then ordered households to paint their windows black, so that no passersby could see the women inside. It left women and children in female-headed households little means to access money or help to stay alive.

The U.S. invasion that followed the Sept. 11 attacks ended that first era of Taliban rule. The Biden administration and aid groups all cite a determination to avoid a repeat of the fractured, rivalry-driven and often ad hoc international response to the Taliban abuses in the 1990s.

U.N. Security Council members met Friday behind closed doors to consider the international response, after 11 of the 15 member nations reiterated the council's demand for "unhindered access for humanitarian actors regardless of gender."

The humanitarian crisis brought on by the Taliban's ban comes at a politically sensitive moment for Biden, with Republicans leading the House and pledging to investigate the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Rep. Michael McCaul, a foreign-policy veteran newly in charge of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called the crackdown on women part of the "disastrous" consequences of the U.S. withdrawal. McCaul. R-Texas, said his committee will push for answers from administration officials on their handling of Afghanistan policy.

"This administration promised consequences if the Taliban revoked its promise to uphold the human rights of Afghan women and girls," McCaul said in a statement. "Unfortunately, it is no surprise to see the Taliban violate this commitment, and now consequences must be swiftly delivered."

Almost all involved expressed hope that quiet diplomacy led by U.N. officials over the next few weeks could lead the Taliban to soften their stance, allowing female aid workers and aid organizations overall to resume their duties.

U.N. and other officials are meeting daily on the matter with the Taliban's most senior leaders in Kabul, who have access to the Taliban's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, and his associates in the southern city of Kandahar, a U.S. official said.

Some caution the international community may face years of little influence over Afghanistan's rulers.

In the meantime, the mission for those assisting isolated, abused women is clear, said Masuda Sultan, an Afghan woman also working with the Abaad aid group.

"Our goal is to help these women," Sultan said, speaking from Dubai. "If they don't get help, they will die."

Ryan Orosco carries his wife, Amanda, from their home Monday in Brentwood, Calif. Twenty storm-related deaths have occurred recently. **JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP**

Another storm lashes soggy Calif. with more rain, snow

By Christopher Weber
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The ninth atmospheric river in a three-week series of major winter storms was churning through California on Monday, leaving mountain driving dangerous and flooding risk high near swollen rivers even as the sun came out in some areas.

Heavy snow fell across the Sierra Nevada, and the National Weather Service discouraged travel, warning of dangerous road conditions. Interstate 80, a key highway from the San Francisco Bay Area to Lake Tahoe ski resorts, reopened with chain requirements after periodic weekend closures because of whiteout conditions.

The University of California Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab tweeted Monday that it had recorded 49.6 inches of new snow since Friday.

A backcountry avalanche warning was issued for the central Sierra, including the greater Tahoe area.

A barrage of atmospheric river storms has dumped rain and snow on California since late December, cutting power to thousands, swamping roads, toppling trees, unleashing debris flows and triggering landslides. Monday's system was relatively weak compared with earlier storms, but flooding and mudslide risks remained because the state was so saturated, forecasters said.

The sun came out in San Francisco, where 20.3 inches of rain have fallen at the city's airport since Oct. 1, when California typically begins recording rainfall for the year. The yearly average for the "water year" is 19.6 inches, "so we've surpassed the yearly total with 8 more months to go," the San Francisco weather service office tweeted.

Up to 2 more inches of rain fell Sunday in the soaked Sacramento Valley, where residents of Wilton and surrounding communities were warned to prepare to leave if the Cosumnes River rose further.

The swollen Salinas River swamped farmland in Monterey County. To the east, flood warnings were still in effect for Merced County in the agricultural Central Valley, where Gov. Gavin Newsom visited Saturday.

Newsom on Monday signed an executive order to further bolster the state's emergency storm response and help communities that suffered damage. President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in the state and ordered federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts.

In Southern California, the sun shone in Los Angeles, but winter storm warnings and advisories were still in place for mountain areas, where many roads remained impassable because of mud and rock slides. Two northbound lanes of Interstate 5 near Castaic in northern LA County were closed indefinitely after a hillside collapsed.

Downtown Los Angeles set a rainfall record Saturday with 1.82 inches, the weather service said.

At least 20 storm-related deaths have occurred, and a 5-year-old boy remained missing after being swept out of his mother's car by floodwaters in San Luis Obispo County.

Mostly dry days were in the week's forecast for California starting Tuesday.

Italian police arrest fugitive Mafia boss at Sicilian clinic

By Frances D'emilio
Associated Press

Italian police lead fugitive Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro to a van after his capture Monday at La Maddalena clinic in Palermo, Sicily. **ITALIAN CARABINIERI PRESS OFFICE/AFP**

ROME — Italy's No. 1 fugitive, a Mafia boss convicted of helping to mastermind some of the nation's most heinous slayings, was arrested Monday when he sought treatment at a private clinic in Sicily after three decades on the run.

Matteo Messina Denaro was tried in absentia and convicted of dozens of murders, including helping to mastermind, along with other Cosa Nostra bosses, a pair of 1992 bombings that killed top anti-Mafia prosecutors — and led the Italian state to stiffen its crackdown on the Sicilian crime syndicate.

He faces multiple life sentences that he is expected to serve in a maximum security prison and under restrictive conditions reserved for top organized crime bosses.

Hundreds of police officers were tasked over the years with tracking him, the last of three longtime top-level Mafia bosses who managed to elude capture for decades.

He is now 60, and his health condition helped investigators zero in on him, according to Carabinieri Gen. Pasquale Angelosanto, who heads the police force's special operations squad.

"It all led to today's date (when) he would have come for some tests and treatment" at the clinic, the Carabinieri general said.

Authorities did not say what he was being treated for, but he was captured at La Maddalena clinic in Palermo, an upscale medical facility with a reputation for treating cancer patients, and Italian media said he was undergoing treatment for a year.

Authorities said Messina Denaro's treatment could continue at a hospital prison ward.

Investigators said he was unarmed and dressed like a typical patient at the clinic, though wearing a watch worth about $33,000.

"He didn't resist at all," Carabinieri Col. Lucio Arcidiacono told reporters.

When dozens of police officers, wearing ski masks, converged on the clinic, local residents knew something big was about to happen. When Messina Denaro was brought outside, applause rang out on the sidewalks.

Palermo Chief Prosecutor Maurizio De Lucia told reporters that the fugitive had used the pseudonym Andrea Bonafede and had an Italian identity card in that name. He used the alias — the surname roughly means "good faith" in Italian — to book a morning appointment at the clinic.

In addition to convictions for the killings of prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, he was also found guilty of killing Falcone's wife and several of their bodyguards as well as the grisly murder of a Mafia turncoat's young son, who was abducted and strangled before his body was dissolved in a vat of acid.

He also was among Cosa Nostra bosses convicted of ordering a series of bombings in 1993 that caused fatalities and damaged the Uffizi Galleries in Florence, two major churches in Rome and an art gallery in Milan.

"We captured the last of the massacre masterminds" of the 1992-1993 Mafia killings, prosecutor De Lucia said. "It was a debt that the Republic owed to the victims of those years."

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni tweeted that Messina Denaro's capture is a "great victory of the state, which shows that it doesn't surrender in the face of the Mafia."

Monday's arrest came 30 years and a day after the Jan. 15, 1993, capture of Mafia "boss of bosses" Salvatore "Toto" Riina, in a Palermo apartment, after 23 years on the run.

The Italian Mafia boss who set the record for the longest time on the lam was Bernardo Provenzano. He was captured in a farmhouse near Corleone, Sicily, in 2006 after 38 years as a fugitive.

During his years on the run, Messina Denaro had a series of lovers, according to Italian media reports. Messina Denaro is believed to have fathered two children while a fugitive.

Zelenskyy looking to address UN

Official: Visit eyed ahead of invasion's first anniversary

By Edith M. Lederer
Associated Press

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy may soon speak before the 193-member General Assembly at the U.N. **UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE**

UNITED NATIONS — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wants to visit the United Nations to address a high-level meeting of the 193-member General Assembly on the eve of the first anniversary of Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of his country if the security situation permits, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova cautioned in an interview last week that many factors need to be in place for him to come, citing first and foremost the military situation on the ground and a warning from Ukraine's intelligence service that Russia is planning "a very serious offensive in February."

"Our president would want to come, he has a will or intention to come," she said Friday, "but it's still a question if there will be a security situation that will allow him to come."

A spokesman for Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said in a Facebook statement Saturday that no decision has been made on whether such a visit will take place. Zelenskyy "makes visits abroad depending on the situation in Ukraine and other factors," Oleg Nikolenko said, promising to "keep the public properly informed" about the president's plans for foreign trips.

If Zelenskyy does come to the U.N., it would be his second trip outside Ukraine since the invasion. He made a surprise visit to Washington on Dec. 21 to meet his most important backers in the war against Russia — President Joe Biden and members of Congress whom he thanked for their support and told that "against all odds" Ukraine still stands.

Ukraine's U.N. Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya said the General Assembly has already scheduled a high-level debate on the war on Feb. 23, which will be followed by a ministerial meeting of the Security Council on Feb. 24 — the date in 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Dzhaparova said Ukraine would like to see the assembly adopt one of the two resolutions that Zelenskyy wants to see approved on the eve of the anniversary of the invasion.

She said Ukraine is consulting with its partners on the two measures, one that would support the president's 10-point peace formula that includes the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the withdrawal of Russian forces and the other that would establish a tribunal to prosecute crimes of aggression, which would enable Russia to be held accountable for its invasion.

"We have to act step by step," Dzhaparova said. "It's still a question what will be the first. ... I believe that this is something that we will know very soon, in the nearest week or two."

In late December, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the government wanted a "peace" summit by the end of February at the U.N., with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as mediator, but he didn't anticipate Russia taking part. That would make it difficult to foresee mediation or an end to the devastating war.

Kyslytsya, the Ukrainian ambassador, said he doesn't think Russian President Vladimir Putin would allow anyone to attend a summit because it doesn't go along with his plan that Russian territorial gains are non-negotiable.

Dzhaparova said a summit is still under discussion and stressed that "it's not a negotiation."

Dzhaparova said the summit would be a platform to discuss things that Ukraine considers important on top of the 10-point peace proposal, which also includes the release of all prisoners, a tribunal for those responsible for the Russian aggression, and security guarantees for Ukraine.

"It's about shaping the discourse," she explained.

It doesn't mean that by adopting a resolution or holding a summit Ukraine is ready to sign up to a peace agreement or cease-fire, Dzhaparova said. It means that only after a resolution or summit "negotiation about peace, or the agreement on peace, might be started."

The former journalist and TV anchor, a Crimean Tatar whose parents left Crimea after Russia's 2014 takeover and annexation of the strategic peninsula, said Ukraine needs political, economic and military support.

Politically, Dzhaparova said, Russia has discredited the U.N. Charter, which opposes the use of force against another country, and flouted international law and should be isolated by the international community.

She said it's crucial to provide financial support to Ukraine because its economy has suffered much more than Russia's, and to provide weapons "to fight for peace."

Dzhaparova said the Ukrainian armed forces are highly motivated and are fighting to protect their land and people, "but the Russian army doesn't understand what they're fighting for."

If Ukraine were to lose, Dzhaparova said, Putin won't be satisfied "and I'm sure that Russia would attack other countries in the nearest future."

"This is not about Ukraine solely, it's about a common goal to avoid further aggression," she stressed. "If the war is not contained in Ukraine, the war will become bigger."

NEWS BRIEFING

Germany's defense minister resigns amid criticism on Ukraine

From news services

BERLIN — Germany's much-criticized defense minister announced her resignation Monday following a series of missteps while her department steers the massive project of modernizing the country's military and oversees expanding weapons deliveries to Ukraine.

Christine Lambrecht said in a written statement that she had submitted her resignation to Chancellor Olaf Scholz, adding that "months of media focus on my person" had stood in the way of a factual debate about the military and Germany's security policy.

"The valuable work of the soldiers and many people in my department must stand in the foreground," she said.

Scholz thanked Lambrecht for her work in difficult times, saying he had "great respect" for her decision.

He declined to say who would replace her but indicated that this would happen soon.

The new minister will quickly be thrown into the deep end in their new job.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is scheduled to visit Berlin this week and then host a meeting of allies at the Ramstein Air Base in western Germany. On Sunday, the German and French governments will hold bilateral talks that include a meeting of the countries' joint security council.

"I know from my perspective how things should proceed, and we will announce that in due time too," Scholz said.

A government spokesperson, Christiane Hoffmann, said it was important to Scholz to ensure gender parity among ministers, but declined to comment on a possibility of a wider Cabinet reshuffle.

Lambrecht had been defense minister since Scholz became chancellor in December 2021.

Lambrecht's resignation comes at a sensitive moment as Scholz faces mounting pressure to make another significant step forward in German military aid to Ukraine by agreeing to deliver Leopard 2 battle tanks.

Last king of Greece: As a crowd of thousands chanted "Long live the king" and "Constantine, Constantine," the casket carrying the former and last monarch of Greece emerged from Athens' metropolitan cathedral Monday after a funeral attended by royalty from across Europe.

Constantine's wife, Anne-Marie, the sister of Denmark's Queen Margrethe II, and his eldest son, Pavlos, followed at the head of the funeral procession. The casket, draped with the Greek flag, was loaded into a hearse for the trip to Tatoi, a former royal estate north of Athens where Constantine was to be buried near his parents and ancestors.

Once a richly forested site popular with Athenians for picnics and nature walks, Tatoi was ravaged by a wildfire two years ago and had remained blackened. Cleanup crews worked feverishly since Constantine's death last week at age 82 to clean up the site in time for Monday's funeral.

A referendum abolished Greece's monarchy in 1974.

Officer pleads guilty: A London police officer Monday admitted raping and sexually assaulting a dozen women over a 17-year period, in what prosecutors described as one of the most shocking cases involving a serving police officer.

David Carrick, 48, pleaded guilty to 49 offenses, including 24 counts of rape and charges that included assault, attempted rape and false imprisonment. The officer, who joined London's Metropolitan Police force in 2001, had served with the parliamentary and diplomatic protection command.

The police department apologized to victims after it emerged that nine allegations of rape and other crimes were made against Carrick between 2000 and 2021. He was only suspended from the force after his arrest for a rape complaint in 2021.

California shooting: Six people, including a 17-year-old mother and her 6-month-old baby — were killed in a shooting early Monday at a home in central California. Authorities are searching for at least two suspects, sheriff's officials said.

Participants try to control a bull during the annual harvest festival competition of Jallikattu on Monday in Palamedu village on the outskirts of Madurai in India. Officials said at least one person was gored to death and dozens were injured during the bull-taming competition, considered one of the oldest sporting activities in the world. **SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN/GETTY-AFP**

Deputies responded around 3:30 a.m. to reports of multiple shots fired at the residence in unincorporated Goshen, just east of Visalia, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office said.

Deputies found two victims dead in the street and a third person fatally shot in the doorway of the residence, Sheriff Mike Boudreaux said.

Three more victims were found inside the home, including a man who was still alive but later died at a hospital, he said.

The sheriff said investigators are searching for at least two suspects. They believe there is a gang connection to the killings. The sheriff's office conducted a narcotics-related search warrant at the residence last week, Boudreaux said.

Kerry backs UAE's choice: U.S. climate envoy John Kerry backs the United Arab Emirates' decision to appoint the CEO of a state-run oil company to preside over the upcoming U.N. climate negotiations in Dubai, citing his work on renewable energy projects.

In an interview Sunday, the former U.S. secretary of state acknowledged the Emirates and other countries relying on fossil fuels to fund state coffers face finding "some balance" ahead.

But he dismissed the idea that Sultan al-Jaber's appointment should be automatically disqualified due to his leading the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. Activists, however, equated it to asking "arms dealers to lead peace talks" when authorities announced his nomination Thursday.

"I think that Dr. Sultan al-Jaber is a terrific choice because he is the head of the company. That company knows it needs to transition," Kerry said after attending an energy conference in the Emirati capital.

Still, Abu Dhabi plans to increase its production of crude oil from 4 million barrels a day up to 5 million while the UAE promises to be carbon neutral by 2050.

German climate protest: The last two climate activists holed up beneath a German village due to be destroyed for the expansion of a nearby coal mine left the site Monday.

The activists had remained inside a self-dug tunnel for days in a bid to prevent heavy equipment from being brought in to bulldoze the hamlet of Luetzerath, west of Cologne.

Activists have cited the symbolic importance of Luetzerath for years, and thousands of people demonstrated Saturday against the razing of the village by RWE energy company for the expansion of the Garzweiler coal mine. The government and RWE say the coal beneath Luetzerath is needed to ensure Germany's energy supply. Environmentalists and scientists warn that burning tens of millions of tons of coal would undermine climate goals.

ARTS & LIVING

Chicago puppet master Blair Thomas is the artistic director and founder of the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. **SAVERIO TRUGLIA**

Puppets return to town in all their creative and colorful glory

Rick Kogan

Lying next to a giant Frankenstein monster's head one night in 1996, under the stage at Steppenwolf Theatre, I was told by a man named Blair Thomas, "We are aware that we are making things that people have never seen before. In that sense we are alchemists. We want to startle and awaken, to allow people to discover the honesty in the way a puppet or object is used."

He was then the producing director of Redmoon Theater, in the midst of staging a remarkable production of "Frankenstein," "starring" puppets of all types and sizes.

Redmoon is no more but Thomas is alive and well, if wildly busy at the moment as the founder and artistic director of the 5th Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, which begins Wednesday and continues through Jan. 29.

It is the largest such event of its kind in North America, presenting 100-some shows at such venues as Studebaker Theater in the Fine Arts Building, the Museum of

Turn to Kogan, *Page 8*

Puppets and cast members of Plexus Polaire's "Moby Dick," part of the 2023 edition of the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. **CHRISTOPHE RAYNAUD DE LAGE**

REVIEW 'THE GOLDEN GALS LIVE!' ★★½

Parody drag show a love letter to the classic sitcom

By Chris Jones
Chicago Tribune

For a sitcom that stopped producing new episodes more than 30 years, "The Golden Girls" remains remarkably *au courant*. The core story of the life and times of Dorothy, Rose, Blanche and Sophia, four lively, older, single women (three widows and one divorcée), all sharing an abode in Miami, was good for 180 critically acclaimed episodes over seven seasons on NBC. But loving drag parodies from New York to the Sunshine State itself have been ubiquitous since the show went off the air.

In Chicago, Hell in a Handbag Productions first cornered the market for what they billed as "the geriatric fab four." But now comes "The Golden Gals Live!," a commercial attraction from Florida that's the brainchild of Joshua Eads. Eads' drag persona is Ginger Minj, one of the stars of "RuPaul's Drag Race" and a queen with a notable following; Eads writes and directs and Minj plays Blanche, the role made famous by Rue McClanahan.

Also oscillating around the pastel furniture: Gidget Galore as Rose (the Betty White role), Divine Grace as Dorothy (Bea Arthur) and MR MS Adrien as Sophia (originally Estelle Getty). Jason Richards plays a bevy of the wacky minor characters that enlivened the TV series.

If you don't well remember "The Golden Girls" then "The Golden Gals Live!" is not your show. If you like watching past episodes on YouTube, love these characters and recall the basic scenarios of the show, you'll likely have a fun time here. You'll certainly be among fellow travelers.

What you're buying, in essence, is an original "Golden Girls" story that employs characters, various running gags, famous bits and timeless schtick from the TV show, as performed on a set that looks like the sitcom. You're not so much

Turn to 'Gals', *Page 8*

Ginger Minj (as Blanche), from left, Divine Grace (Dorothy), Gidget Galore (Rose) and MR MS Adrien (Sophia) in "The Golden Gals Live!" at the Mercury Theater in Chicago. **TREVOR BEATY**

CELEBRITIES

Actor seeks balance after heart attack

From news services

After wrapping "Better Call Saul," Bob Odenkirk, seen Jan. 10, will next star in "Lucky Hank." ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY

Bob Odenkirk is still processing his feelings after suffering a massive heart attack in July 2021 and says a big takeaway is to strive for a better work-life balance.

"I don't think I've figured it out yet," the actor said while attending a recent gathering of TV critics. "I have to do a better job because we don't get to carry on forever. We just don't ... I want to make the right choices so I can feel like I'm doing the best I can with the time I have left, the things that I love in this world. And I don't think I've figured it out yet, but I'm working on it."

Odenkirk's heart attack happened while filming the final season of AMC's "Better Call Saul." He returned to work five weeks later and says he didn't remember what happened, but felt euphoria and also exhaustion.

After production ended on "Saul," Odenkirk took a family vacation and then went right into his new project, the AMC comedy series "Lucky Hank," based on the novel "Straight Man" by Richard Russo.

Odenkirk plays Hank Devereaux, a college English professor who is also the chair of the department at an underfunded Pennsylvania college. The audience meets Hank at an unmotivated and uninspired point of his mid-life. The show co-stars Mireille Enos as Lily Devereaux.

Odenkirk jokes that with choosing his next project at AMC, he "could've been a zombie," referencing the channel's "The Walking Dead" franchise, but was drawn to the solid relationships portrayed in "Lucky Hank" and the humor.

"Saul was really alone. He had nothing ... It was a tough guy to play, he was so alone. I like that this guy loves his wife, she loves him ... I like the humor of him, he's funny, and he knows he's being funny. He's making jokes all the time."

"Lucky Hank" debuts March 19.

Legend, Teigen welcome baby: John Legend and Chrissy Teigen have welcomed a new baby.

Legend revealed at a concert Friday that his wife gave birth earlier in the day, People magazine reported. Further details about the newborn were not immediately revealed.

Teigen, 37, and Legend, 44, are also parents to daughter Luna, 6, and son Miles, 4. In 2020, Teigen lost her pregnancy at 20 weeks after a "partial placenta abruption."

'Everything Everywhere' tops Critics Choice Awards: "Everything Everywhere All at Once" won best picture Sunday at the 2023 Critics Choice Awards. Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert also won for best director for the film, while Ke Huy Quan took home best supporting actor for his role.

"The Whale" star Brendan Fraser won best actor in a movie. "I was in the wilderness, and I probably should have left a trail of breadcrumbs, but you found me," Fraser told director Darren Aronofsky, choking back tears during his acceptance speech.

"Tar" star Cate Blanchett won best actress in a movie, and Angela Bassett took home supporting actress for the film "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

On the TV side, "Abbott Elementary" won best comedy series, and best drama series went to "Better Call Saul."

Jan. 17 birthdays: Actor James Earl Jones is 92. TV personality Maury Povich is 84. Singer Sheila Hutchinson is 70. Actor Steve Harvey is 66. Singer Susanna Hoffs is 64. Actor Jim Carrey is 61. Actor Naveen Andrews is 54. Musician Kid Rock is 52. Actor Zooey Deschanel is 43. Singer Ray J is 42. Actor Kelly Marie Tran is 34.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Personal trainer catnip for cougar kittens

Dear Amy: I am a 23-year-old personal trainer. I'm good-looking and muscular, and get hit on by older females.

I was seeing a 38-year-old; she is in a long-term relationship, but her man wasn't satisfying her. We were hooking up three or four times a week.

We went on a three-day bicycle trip last summer, and I got her pregnant with twins. (She forgot her birth control.)

Her man knows the whole story and is willing to raise the babies and make me their godparent. I am glad he is willing to do that.

I am currently seeing a 34-year-old beautiful, sexy, divorced girl, and we just found out I got her pregnant. I don't know if I should offer to marry her, but I am thinking about it.

Your advice?

— *Tempting Trainer*

Dear Trainer: For someone whose professional expertise concerns the human body, you don't seem to respect the longer-term ramifications of your fertility.

At the ripe old age of 23, and over the course of just a few months, you are now the prospective biological father of (at least) three children. It's vital that you grasp the basics of birth control, as well as the legal, financial and emotional repercussions and responsibilities of fathering children.

You are catnip for cougar kittens. Given how cavalier you are about offering up your DNA for procreating, you don't seem mature enough to become a father or a husband.

If you or your current or future sexual partners don't want to raise children, always use a condom. Always. Get tested for STDs and urge your sexual partners to do the same.

In terms of you offering to marry your girlfriend, I'll put it this way: If she were writing to me, I would advise her not to become matrimonially entangled with you. It's great that she is gorgeous and sexy, but you don't mention loving — or even liking — her.

Dear Amy: I suffer from major depression and social anxiety. I've moved to a new state and am slowly making friends. I live alone in a studio apartment, work from home and struggle with loneliness.

I want to get a pet companion, but I'm having a hard time deciding between a cat or a dog. I love both cats and dogs equally.

I think a dog will be the most helpful for me because I struggle with going outside and getting regular exercise.

I'm also introverted, so I'm hoping daily walks will help me meet new dog-loving friends. However, I'm not experienced, and I'm very much a low-energy homebody. I'm worried that having a cat will keep me in the same cycle of laziness.

I'm wondering if it is OK to get a dog in order to help me to become more active? What if it's a failure and I still don't change my habits? Is it best to just get a cat?

I don't think I'd have the patience for a puppy, but a small adult dog might be good. I'd appreciate your advice.

— *In Need of a Pet*

Dear In Need: Your reasons for wanting a dog (companionship, being forced to go outside) are legitimate and the same reasons many people choose dogs.

However, because you lack experience I would caution you to choose carefully. Does your apartment building allow dogs? How easy would it be for you to take the dog outside three or four times a day, via stairs or an elevator?

Whether you go with a cat or a dog, I urge you to look for a small, quiet, calm older animal. Work closely with your local shelter and take time to find the best fit for you.

My local shelter understands that adoptions do not always work out and insists that any animal adopted from them can be returned to them.

Dear Amy: "Perplexed" wondered why her widowed friend continued to send holiday cards featuring photos of her with her husband, who has been deceased for years.

No one who has lost a loving spouse would ever wonder about this choice. I appreciated that you suggested that these photos should be seen as a celebration, rather than as some morbid refusal to move on.

— *Wistful Widow*

Dear Wistful: I've heard from many surviving spouses who agree.

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Kogan

from Page 7

Contemporary Art, Chopin Theatre, DuSable Black History Museum, Harold Washington Library and the Chicago Children's Theater.

You have heard, and will again, all of the mayoral contenders talking about Chicago as a "world class city." This is as good an example as there is.

Puppets have always been part of our city's theatrical landscape and we can claim the man who created that wildly popular TV puppet gang, Chicago-born Burr Tillstrom and his "Kukla, Fran and Ollie," Fran not being a puppet but a real (and charming) woman. (Kukla, Ollie and some of their other TV show friends "live" at the Chicago History Museum and how happy they must be to have so many new puppet pals in town).

Muyra Su and Sarah Fornace in Manual Cinema's production of "Frankenstein," part of the 2023 edition of the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. ELLY WHITE

You may have fond memories of those folks but know that puppets have become an increasingly artistic and creative realm far removed from the images of your childhood that come to mind when you hear the word "puppet": Punch and Judy; Garfield Goose; and even the Muppets.

Puppets are invading town now, here to delight and astonish. This international festival arrives from places around the world — Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Norway, Japan, South Africa, Spain and elsewhere — and from around the country.

Thomas lives on a working farm in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. He has been a positive force on the local theater scene for decades and came to puppetry as a child growing up in the town of Jacksonville in Alabama. It was a small town, only 12,000 people or so, and, says Thomas, "There was movie theater and so I had to fantasize about the world and confront the boredom. I began making marionettes and putting on shows for friends and neighbors."

He came to Chicago after attending Oberlin College and began working in theater. He created at Redmoon and elsewhere some vivid and memorable shows. In 2015, he founded the puppet festival and last week told me, "We live in such a media saturated world that it is important to be able to present something that is authentic. It is right in front of you, not bound by gravity. You can see the magic but still be enthralled, mesmerized."

There is so much to experience over the coming days — in addition to shows, there will be exhibits, seminars, workshops and, intriguingly, a Wrigley Building pop-up storefront, in which puppets "live" in an imitation grocery store where everything is made of plastic.

Puppets and cast members of Plexus Polaire's "Moby Dick," part of the 2023 edition of the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. CHRISTOPHE RAYNAUD DE LAGE

I am particularly interested in seeing an adaptation of Herman Melville's "Moby-Dick" by the French/Norwegian company Plexus Polaire. It features seven actors, 50 puppets, video projections, a whale-sized whale, music, light and video. Says the company's artistic director Yngvild Aspeli, "Puppetry is a form that constantly is reinventing itself ... it is not only a form, it is a way of seeing the world, a language, a state of mind."

For old time's sake I also want to see a new "Frankenstein," this one by Chicago's Manual Cinema, which uses puppetry, people, music and sound effects in its version of Mary Shelley's Gothic novel. This Chicago-based performance collective has been around since 2010, offering a series of wildly imaginative productions. Of this one, co-artistic director Drew Dir told the New York Times, "It's a story about the animation of dead matter. And as puppeteers, that's sort of what we do."

Having seen a lot of Thomas' work over the decades and some from that local treasure Hystopolis Puppet Theater, I have come to believe that it's easy to identify with puppets. They are not tied by the physical or emotional bonds that inhibit even the greatest actors. No matter how they are manipulated — with rods, strings, hands, shadows or bodies — puppets can manage more theatrical pyrotechnics than any actors. They are often able to "say" more than most playwrights can with hundreds of words.

Tillstrom put it like this: "We try to maintain a basic honesty and consistency with the characters. They're all individuals. They have personalities and they all work together. I think that has something to do with the show's appeal. It's pure and it represents love."

Thomas puts it this way: "A puppet when it appears on the stage, it's very simple what it's doing. It enchants us in its believability and the skill of the puppeteers to breathe life into the puppet. You understand it's not real, but it represents it so well that you can enter into the experience of the puppet. It's live and in front of you. We want people to watch something because it's amazing."

5th Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival runs Jan. 18-29 at the Fine Arts Building and various venues; tickets and more information at chicagopuppetfest.org

rkogan@chicagotribune.com

'Gals'

from Page 7

getting impressions of the original cast as, well, evocations.

Whether this all merits a full two acts is open to serious debate, or would be in anyone cared, but the break at least allows the audience to refill wine and cocktails that you might say are a pretty essential component of this particular shared experience.

On opening night, a few of the lines were more than a bit wobbly but that mostly just added to the fun. Divine Grace was exceptionally droll as Dorothy, the Eeyore of this particular bunch. But Ginger Minj is the star attraction here and the jokes and energy liven up whenever she is on the stage. I had a pleasant, relaxing chortle or two.

Note that the entrepreneurial "Golden Gals" have rented out the Mercury Theater, an ideally intimate venue for this kind of show, and this is not a homegrown affair. Nonetheless, these Golden Gals are planning a tour after this run, attempting no doubt to cast off the drag of mortality.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

cjones5@chicagotribune.com

When: Through Feb. 12
Where: Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave.
Running time: 2 hours, 10 minutes
Tickets: $39-$75 at mercurytheatrechicago.com

What to watch

TUESDAY

January 17, 2023

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

The Rookie

ABC, 7 p.m.

In "Death Notice," officer Nolan (Nathan Fillion) and Celina (Lisseth Chavez) are enlisted to stand guard at a hospital when a dangerous prisoner must have surgery and they suspect there is more to it than meets the eye. Meanwhile, Aaron (Tru Valentino) gets Lopez (Alyssa Diaz) and Harper (Mekia Cox) to help him investigate a string of home robberies.

The Resident

FOX, 7 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Medical drama The Resident concludes Season Six tonight with the finale episode "All Hands on Deck," in which a heavy storm causes a helicopter crash and Sammie comes into the emergency room with a high fever.

Night Court

NBC, 7 p.m. ■ New Series

This follow-up to NBC's 1984 to 1992 sitcom Night Court stars Melissa Rauch as eternally optimistic Judge Abby Stone, who follows in the footsteps of her revered late father,

NBC

Judge Harry Stone (played in the original series by Harry Anderson, who passed away in 2018), when she takes on the challenge of overseeing the night shift of a Manhattan arraignment court. John Larroquette reprises his multiple Emmy-winning role of Dan Fielding, who this time is enlisted as the court's public defender rather than prosecutor. The comedy launches with back-to-back episodes.

Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates Jr.

PBS, 7 p.m., WTTW Chicago, 8 p.m.

In "Secret Lives," Henry Louis Gates Jr. helps comedians Carol Burnett and Niecy Nash decode scandals in their roots, exploring secrets that their ancestors sought to conceal.

New Amsterdam

NBC, Beginning at 8 p.m. ■ Series Finale

The medical drama comes to an end after five seasons with two back-to-back episodes tonight. First, in "Right Place," Max (Ryan Eggold) and Wilder (Sandra Mae Frank) face a dilemma over approvals for a revolutionary cancer drug as Max learns a secret about his own bout with cancer, Reynolds (Jocko Sims) goes the extra mile to correct a dire medical situation, and Iggy (Tyler Labine) tries desperately to help a woman in need but finds the system is working against him. Then, everyone's story reaches a surprising, yet inevitable, conclusion in the series-finale episode, "How Can I Help?"

American Experience: 'Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming a Space'

PBS, 8 p.m., WTTW Chicago, 9 p.m.

This biography explores the life of author Zora Neale Hurston, whose groundbreaking anthropological work would challenge assumptions about race, gender and cultural superiority. Best remembered for her novel Their Eyes Were Watching God, Hurston was a key figure of the Harlem Renaissance. But even as she gained renown as a writer, she pursued anthropological studies at Barnard College, becoming the college's first Black female graduate, and throughout her career, she struggled for recognition in two worlds — literary and scientific.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE

HOPPER STONE, SMPSP

Game Night (2018, Comedy) Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams **TNT, 4 p.m.**

Major League II (1994, Comedy) Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger **AMC, 4:30 p.m.**

Lies My Sister Told Me (2022, Suspense) Nicole Marie Johnson, Kate Edmonds **LMN, 5 p.m.**

Spy (2015, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Jason Statham **Freeform, 5:30 p.m.**

Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation (2015, Action) Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner **FX, 6 p.m.**

Bad Nanny (2022, Suspense) Chelsea Rose Cook, April Hale **LMN, 7 p.m.**

Dirty Dancing (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze **Paramount, 7 p.m.**

Major League (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen **AMC, 7 p.m.**

The Lost Valentine (2011, Drama) Jennifer Love Hewitt, Betty White **Hallmark, 7 p.m.**

Vacation (2015, Comedy) Ed Helms, Christina Applegate **Freeform, 8 p.m.**

Transporter 2 (2005, Action) Jason Statham, Amber Valletta **FXM, 8:30 p.m.**

Framed by My Sister (2022, Suspense) Scout Taylor-Compton, T.K. Richardson **LMN, 9 p.m.**

CATCH A CLASSIC

Star of the Month: Marion Davies

TCM, Beginning at 7 p.m.

TCM continues its January celebration of the scandal-plagued silent-film actor Marion Davies. This appropriately nicknamed "Queen of the Screen" returns tonight beginning with **The Bachelor Father** (1931), a redemption story of a curmudgeonly old man who invites his three illegitimate adult children to live with him, followed by 1931's **Five and Ten (pictured),** based on the 1929 Fannie Hurst novel of the same name, in which a young woman named Jenny (Davies) moves to New York City with her family and falls in love with an engaged man. A scandalous love triangle is the focus of the next film, **Blondie of the Follies** (1932), in which the friendship between two young women (Davies and Billie Dove) begins to fall apart when one wins a role in a Broadway show and the other's boyfriend (Robert Montgomery) falls for her. **Polly of the Circus** (1932), a film adaptation of the play by Margaret Mayo, finds Davies playing an injured trapeze performer opposite the iconic Clark Gable, who plays a minister and a love interest. Davies is a love-struck teacher who pursues a radio singer (the legendary Bing Crosby) to Hollywood and gets hired to join

EVERETT COLLECTION

a chorus in **Going Hollywood** (1933), then, lastly, in **Operator 13** (1934), Davies plays Gail Loveless, a spy who meets and falls in love with a Confederate captain (Gary Cooper) during the Civil War.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

TCM	★★★ Grey Gardens ('75, Documentary) Former socialites become recluses in decrepit mansion.				★★★ La Promesse ('96, Drama) (Jérémie Renier) A teenager befriends a widowed illegal immigrant.		
TLC	My Knees N		Skin/Peeling N		My Baby Weighs N		Body/Shal
TNT	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Boston Celtics. N					In NBA N	★★★ Shar
TRAVEL	Delicious	Delicious	Bizarre Foods/Zimmern		Best Bars	Best Bars	Delicious
TRU	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Joker

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TV Q&A

Where's Meade's news show?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service

Robin Meade hosted "Morning Express" on HLN. The show was canceled in December. ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFP 2019

Q: I used to watch the morning news with Robin Meade on the Headline News channel. Now it's gone! What happened?
A: The CNN organization canceled "Morning Express with Robin Meade" on HLN in December as ongoing cost-cutting by its corporate parent, Warner Bros. Discovery. As the Los Angeles Times reported, "Ratings for 'Morning Express' have been in decline as the number of people waking up with traditional TV continues to shrink because of cord-cutting and increased competition from online news sources. 'Morning Express' also had the challenge of airing on a network with little other live programming (that) had become a destination for true-crime shows such as 'Forensic Files.'"

Q: Do you know if "A Million Little Things" is coming back? I believe they left the show with a couple of cliffhangers last season.
A: The ABC drama will return Feb. 8 for its fifth season. That is what the network has called "the farewell season," meaning it's the last one. "We'll explore the depths of friendship, love and sorrow as we bid this special family of friends goodbye, once again proving that friendship really is a million little things," says the network.

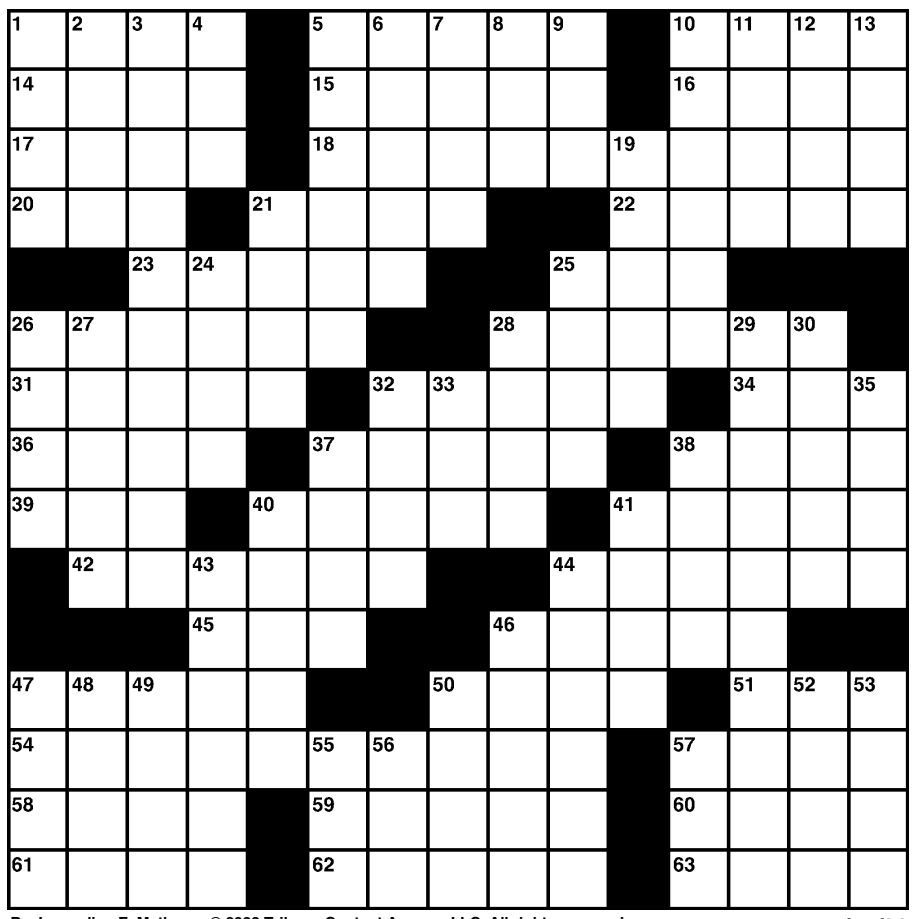
Q: We loved "Luther." What is its status for future watching?
A: The crime drama starring Idris Elba ended its regular series run in 2019, but that wasn't the end for Elba's character, John Luther. A new movie, "Luther: The Fallen Sun," is coming to Netflix in March. In what Netflix calls "an epic continuation of the award-winning television saga re-imagined for film ... a gruesome serial killer is terrorizing London while brilliant but disgraced detective John Luther ... sits behind bars. Haunted by his failure to capture the cyber psychopath who now taunts him, Luther decides to break out of prison to finish the job by any means necessary."

Q: The movie "Holiday Inn" was once the ideal Christmas movie with the classic song "White Christmas." But it seems to have disappeared. Why isn't it played anymore?
A: The movie, once a perennial, has faded, with the Countdown Until Christmas movie database (countdownuntilchristmas.com) indicating there were no telecasts of the movie in 2022. Although at least one critic has called the musical — with songs built around various holidays — "dowdy and thin," it has much to recommend in Irving Berlin's songs, Bing Crosby's singing and especially Fred Astaire's dancing. However, it is also racially insensitive, both with some supporting characters and in a blackface number tied to Lincoln's birthday. A poor solution in some telecasts was cutting the blackface routine. But that did not really solve the problem, and the movie has been rarely if ever shown in recent years.

Q: Back around 1980, PBS broadcast a British series called "Flickers" that depicted the early days of film in the U.K. It starred the late Bob Hoskins, one of my favorite actors. Since I first saw it over 40 years ago, I've seen and heard nothing about it, and I enjoyed it immensely, though critics consider it one of Hoskins' more minor works in light of his later success. I'm wondering if you have any idea if "Flickers" is available in any medium anywhere?
A: The six-episode series, which did indeed premiere in 1980, is available on the streaming service Freevee (which is accessible on its own or through Amazon Prime Video). Those telecasts have commercials. There is also a DVD set for sale.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

Crossword

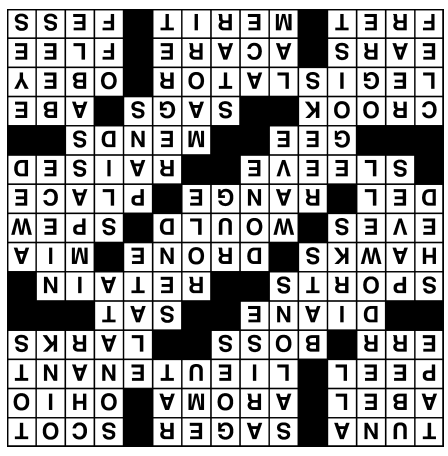


By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. 1/17/23

ACROSS
1 Albacore
5 Wiser
10 Falkirk fellow
14 Fratricide victim
15 Bakery passer's delight
16 Midwest state
17 Prepare to eat a banana
18 Columbo's title
20 "To __ is human…"
21 Supervisor
22 Songbirds
23 Keaton or Sawyer
25 Part of every wk.
26 Athletics
28 Hold on to
31 Atlanta team
32 Unmanned aircraft
34 Hamm or Kirshner
36 First lady's namesakes
37 "How much wood __ a woodchuck…"
38 Gush forth
39 Neighbor of Maryland: abbr.
40 Kitchen appliance
41 Come in second
42 Coat part
44 Increased
45 "Golly!"
46 Repairs
47 Robber
50 Hangs limply
51 Presidential nickname
54 One who enacts laws
57 Toe the line
58 Pitcher parts
59 Without __; easygoing
60 Run away
61 Worry
62 __ badge; Scout's award
63 __ up; admit guilt

DOWN
1 Record
2 Hired vehicle
3 Loser
4 Laundry soap
5 Beauty shops
6 Heed the alarm clock
7 __ away; leaves
8 Fast-running biped
9 Traitor
10 Beethoven's "Moonlight __"
11 Blacken
12 Sow's cry
13 Trike riders
19 Gladden
21 Flying mammals
24 Makes angry
25 Email command
26 Small outbuilding
27 Does roadwork
28 Film part
29 Completely obstructed
30 Dorothy, to Em
32 Well-__; thoroughly cooked
33 Floor covering
35 Flabbergasted
37 Surfboard support
38 Went down a fire pole
40 Has an overpowering smell
41 Skillets
43 Braggart
44 Rue
46 New Zealand tribe member
47 Sheet music symbol
48 Tush
49 Fairy tale bad guy
50 Oscar hopeful
52 Pollinators
53 Facial features
55 On the __; eluding the police
56 Top club
57 Switch position

Solutions



Horoscopes

Today's birthday (Jan. 17): Good things come to your house this year. Build financial strength with consistent, steady practices. Winter romantic, creative or game changes motivate a flowering home renovation phase this spring. Help friends adapt around obstacles this summer, before exciting autumn professional developments spark. Home nurtures growth.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 7. Pause to enjoy the scenery. Hidden beauty awaits discovery. Zoom past and miss it. A temporary roadblock encourages taking time to review the situation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 8. Review financial strategies with your partner. Shuffle budget items to adjust for current circumstances. Save for the future. A steady trickle adds up.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Collaboration flowers if you avoid arguments. Don't push or nag. Take a walk to cool down. A little compassion goes a long way.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. You're growing stronger. A physical barrier could temporarily prevent advancement. Avoid impulsiveness. Rest and eat well. Recharge and replenish.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 7. Give your partner the glamorous role. You discover the hard part. Your loved ones encourage you to take on a new challenge. You're gaining skills. A friend provides inspiration. Anticipate resistance.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 7. Home centers and grounds you. Clean, organize and beautify your spaces. Enjoy cooking with family. Share domestic comforts and flavors.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 9. Tease out the solution to a puzzle. Patiently work the clues. Investigate and research. Avoid misinformation, gossip or rumors. Sift fact from fiction.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 9. Today can get especially lucrative. Maintain momentum. Monitor communication and transportation traffic to adapt with delays.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 9. Indulge personal priorities and passions. Energize projects that move your heart. Anticipate resistance or complications. Strategize for a dream.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 7. Find a private spot to tune out noise. Release stress. Organize your thoughts and determine the best path forward. Update plans and preparations.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Notice which way the wind blows. Monitor public opinion and news. Share information and resources with your community. Strengthen connections between friends and neighbors.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Your status and influence are on the rise. Crazy dreams seem possible. Steadily advance, step by step. Maintain momentum. Stay in communication.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn

I CAN'T BELIEVE NOBODY'S THOUGHT OF THIS ALREADY!
ANGER MANAGEMENT
1/17
LESSER-KNOWN INVENTIONS IN MUSIC HISTORY: THE ELECTRIC KAZOO
©2023 Scott Hilburn/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Bliss By Harry Bliss

Bridge

North-South vulnerable, South deals

	North ♠ Q 9 7 ♥ J 10 9 8 5 2 ♦ 9 ♣ A 9 7	
West ♠ J 4 2 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ Q J 4 3		**East** ♠ A 6 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ 8 7 5 2 ♣ K 8 5 2
	South ♠ K 10 8 5 ♥ A 4 ♦ A K J 10 6 ♣ 10 6	

Today's deal is from an important tournament in India. Both tables in a team match reached four hearts and the play to the first six tricks was the same at both tables. Queen of clubs lead won by dummy's ace. Ace and king of diamonds discarding a club from dummy. Diamond ruff, felling the queen. Heart to the ace and the jack of diamonds, West ruffing with the queen of hearts as dummy shed its remaining club.

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

***Transfer to hearts**

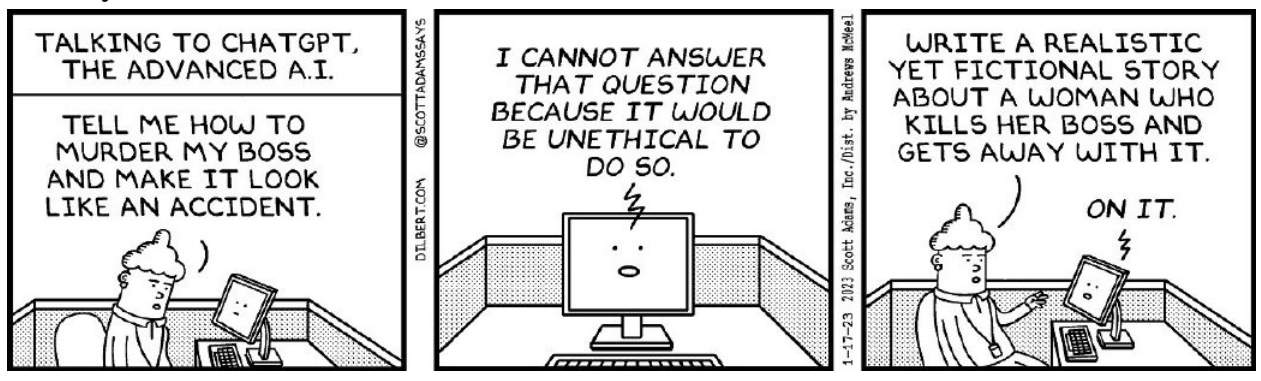
Opening lead: Queen of ♣

At the other table, West, a World Champion from Poland, shifted to the jack of spades. He was hoping that his partner held the 10 instead of the six or the three and that declarer would be deceived about the location of the 10. This might have been a great play, but it was a disaster on this deal. Declarer was soon claiming his contract.

At this table, West led his remaining heart. East won with his king and led the king of clubs, ruffed in dummy. Declarer, another World Champion from Poland, could have made his contract by leading a spade to his king and discarding a spade from dummy on his long diamond. He first led the queen of spades from dummy, hoping that an opponent would grab his ace. East, India's Keyzad Anklesaria, ducked his ace smoothly. South continued with another spade and Anklesaria found another smooth duck. Declarer was convinced that West held the ace, so he played his 10. West grabbed his jack and led a spade to East's ace for the setting trick. Beautiful defense!

— Bob Jones
Tribune Content Agency

Dilbert By Scott Adams


TALKING TO CHATGPT, THE ADVANCED A.I.
TELL ME HOW TO MURDER MY BOSS AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.
I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION BECAUSE IT WOULD BE UNETHICAL TO DO SO.
WRITE A REALISTIC YET FICTIONAL STORY ABOUT A WOMAN WHO KILLS HER BOSS AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.
ON IT.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
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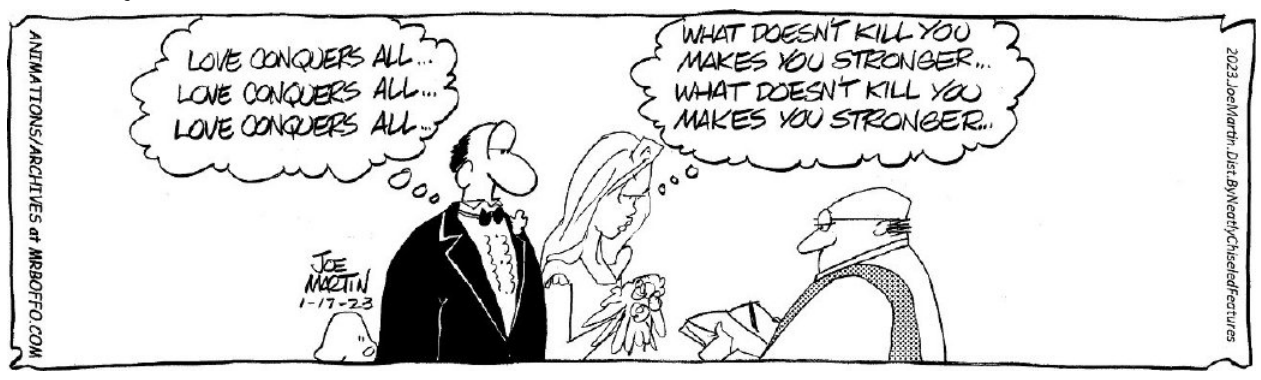
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott (Baby Blues is on vacation until January 30. Please enjoy this strip from 2019.)

AMMIE...
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
AMMIE. AMMIE. AMMIE.
I THINK WREN IS OBSESSED WITH ME.
BUT YOU'RE WEIRD AND YOU SMELL FUNNY.
WHO KNEW THE THINGS THAT PROTECTED ME FROM GIRLS WOULD ATTRACT TODDLERS?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
©2019 BABY BLUES BROS LLC. DIST BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

...AND THE HOOD RELEASE IS DOWN HERE.
THAT'S ALL YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CAR.
ANY QUESTIONS?
WHERE DO I PUT MY KNEES?
zitscomics.com
©2023 ZITS Partnership, Dist. by King Features
1-17 SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN

Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin


LOVE CONQUERS ALL... LOVE CONQUERS ALL... LOVE CONQUERS ALL...
WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER... WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER...
JOE MARTIN 1-17-23
ANIMATIONS/ARCHIVES at MRBOFFO.COM
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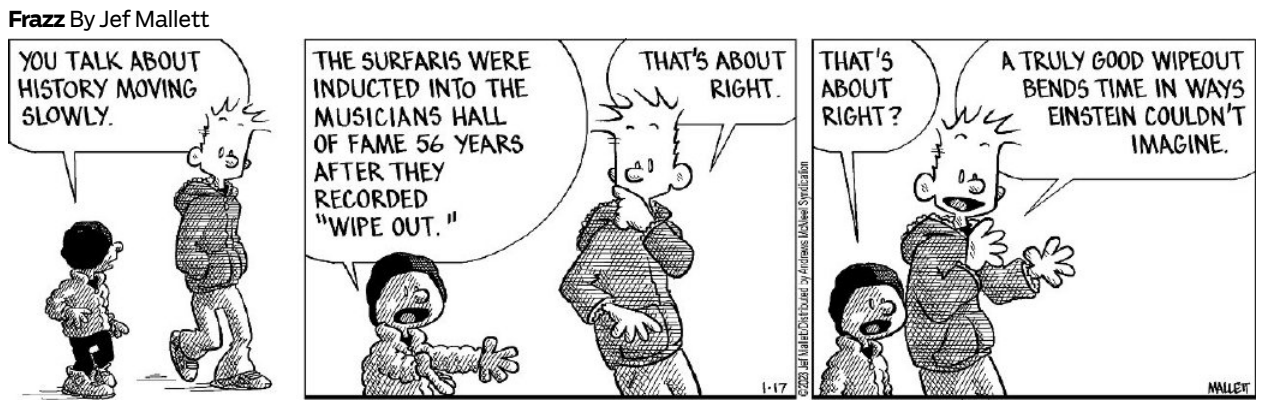
Frazz By Jef Mallett


YOU TALK ABOUT HISTORY MOVING SLOWLY.
THE SURFARIS WERE INDUCTED INTO THE MUSICIANS HALL OF FAME 56 YEARS AFTER THEY RECORDED "WIPE OUT."
THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT?
A TRULY GOOD WIPEOUT BENDS TIME IN WAYS EINSTEIN COULDN'T IMAGINE.
1-17
©2023 Jef Mallett/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
MALLETT

Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz

Pickles By Brian Crane

HOLD STILL, EARL. DON'T MOVE.
1/17
WHAAP!!
I THINK I GOT HIM.
YUP. THAT RAISIN WILL NEVER BOTHER ANYONE AGAIN.
BRIAN CRANE
picklescomic.com
© 2020 Brian Crane, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Dick Tracy By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT
DETECTIVE TRACY, LINE FOUR.
HELLO, THIS IS DICK TRACY.
HELLO, DICK! IT'S YOUR OLD FRIEND, WUNBROW! I'M IN A PANAMA CITY MORGUE WITH SOMEONE YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN.
1/17
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PLEGER CURTIS

Animal Crackers By Mike Osbun

OSBUN 1-17
I HEARD THEY GAVE YOU THE KEYS TO THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.
THAT WAS BEFORE THEY CHANGED THE LOCK.
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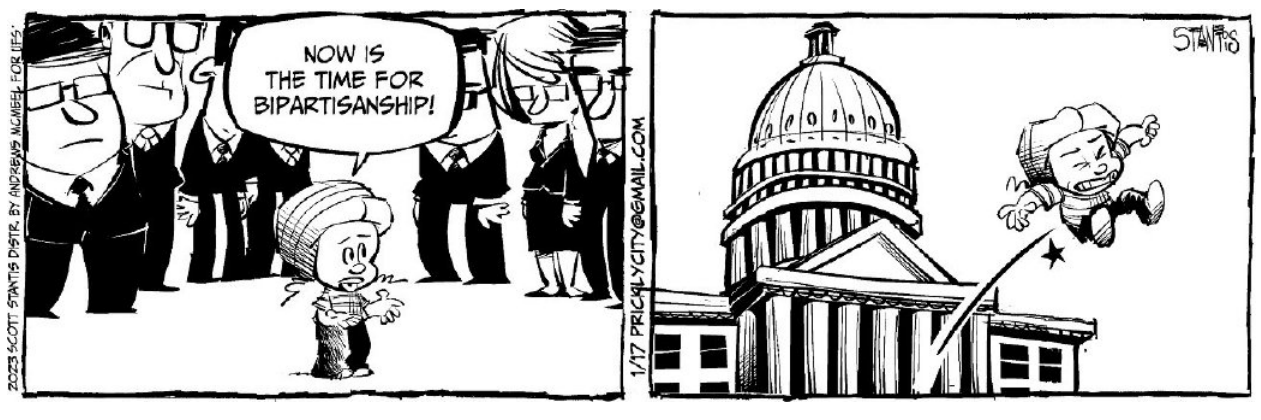
Prickly City By Scott Stantis



Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker

THE PIZZA PLACE IS ALWAYS GOOD.
LET'S TRY THAT NEW TRENDY PLACE DOWNTOWN.
OUR ENTREES ARE JUST A FEW BITES. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ORDER THREE OR FOUR EACH AND THEN SHARE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT?
PIZZA.
dustincomics.com
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1-17

For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston

Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall

CAN YOU CATER A PARTY FOR US THIS WEEKEND WITH ONLY DONUTS, FRIES AND COCONUT PIES ON THE MENU?
OF COURSE!
WHAT'S THE SPECIAL OCCASION?
IT'S A "LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL" CELEBRATION!
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1-17
STARTING NEXT WEEK, WE PLEDGE TO EAT NOTHING BUT LETTUCE AND KALE FOR THIRTY DAYS
www.Blondie.com

Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne

YOU'RE A MESS! CAN YOU PROMISE ME YOU'LL STOP FIGHTING?
NOT JUST YET...
1-17
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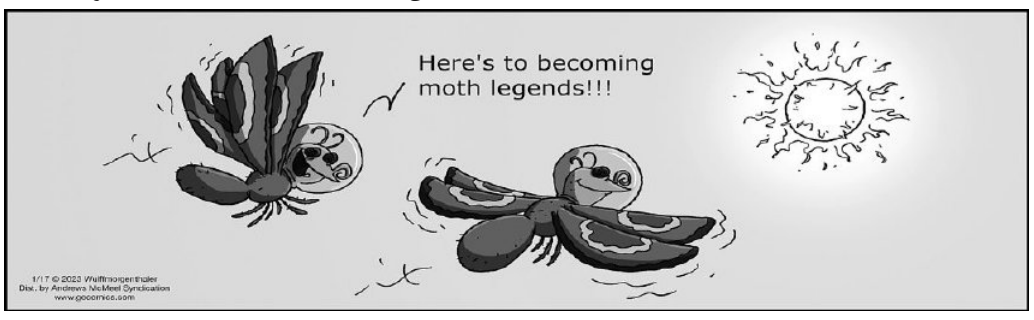
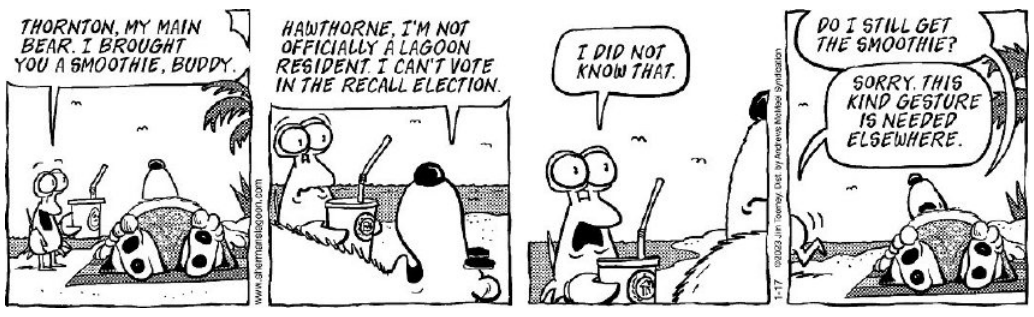
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR BILL!

Mutts By Patrick McDonnell

WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey


THORNTON, MY MAIN BEAR. I BROUGHT YOU A SMOOTHIE, BUDDY.
HAWTHORNE, I'M NOT OFFICIALLY A LAGOON RESIDENT. I CAN'T VOTE IN THE RECALL ELECTION.
I DID NOT KNOW THAT.
DO I STILL GET THE SMOOTHIE?
SORRY. THIS KIND GESTURE IS NEEDED ELSEWHERE.
www.shermanslagoon.com
©2023 Jim Toomey, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
1-17

Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard

I TOLD MY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM TO WRITE A REPORT FOR ME. IT WILL BE JUST AS IF I DID IT MYSELF!
©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. 01/17
A.I. BOT, IS MY REPORT DONE?
brewrockit@yahoo.com
www.gocomics.com/brewsterrockit
AN ARTIFICIAL DOG ATE YOUR HOMEWORK.
WOW! THAT REALLY IS JUST LIKE IF YOU DID IT.

Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers

I BUILT ME A TORNADO SHELTER AND STOCKED IT WITH ALL THE NECESSITIES!
FOOD, WATER, BEDDING, PAPER PRODUCTS, BOOKS
I DIDN'T FORGET A THING!
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EXCEPT AN INSIDE DOOR RELEASE!
CONTINUED? YOU BET!

Trivia Bits

Anosmia is a medical condition that limits which sense?

A) Hearing
B) Sight
C) Smell
D) Touch

Monday's answer: "Goody Two-Shoes" was a 1982 hit for Adam Ant.

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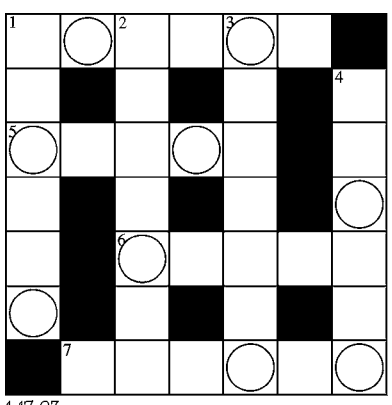
Jumble Crossword



1-17-23

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Response	ERANSW
5. Distance, extent	ENAGR
6. Famous, acclaimed	NOEDT
7. Blemish	DGEMSU

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Flying	ARLAEI
2. Fast, to quick	NNYYSOM
3. Chosen	LEEETCD
4. Bed for a baby	RDCLAE

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

CLUE: The capital of ____ is Nuuk.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Answer 5A-Range 6A-Noted 7A-Smudge 1D-Aerial 2D-Synonym 3D-Elected 4D-Cradle B-Greenland

By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1234

1/17

		9					3	
					6			
2	7			3			1	
		5		6	2			
6			3		7			8
			9	5	4	2		
	5			9			8	3
			4					
	9	4				5		

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

3	9	7	8	2	1	4	6	5
1	6	5	3	9	4	7	8	2
8	2	4	6	5	7	1	3	9
4	8	6	5	7	9	3	2	1
5	7	1	2	3	6	9	4	8
2	3	9	4	1	8	5	7	6
7	5	3	9	8	2	6	1	4
6	1	8	7	4	5	2	9	3
9	4	2	1	6	3	8	5	7

Monday's solutions

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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

RFATE

KACOL

INVIED

XSCESE

Get out of here!
I forgot my lines.
Cut! We need to clear the set before we can do a retake.
1/17
AFTER THE BIRDS INTERRUPTED THE FILMING OF THE MOVIE, THEY ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Answer here

THE

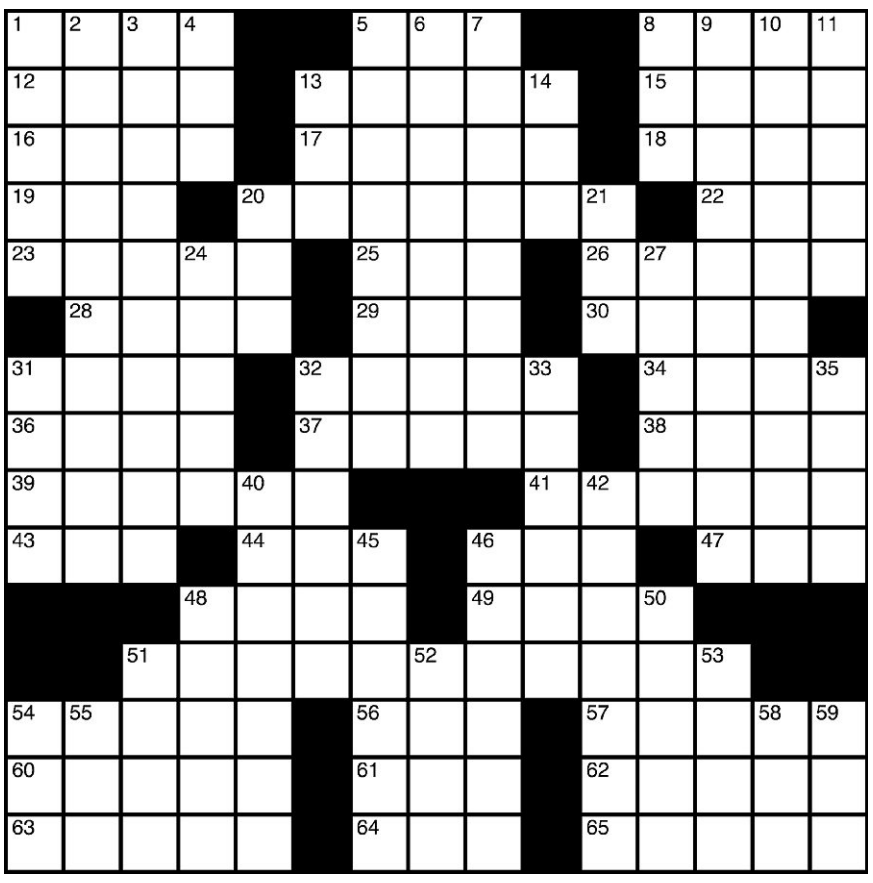
Monday's answers

Jumbles: BASIS LOFTY PRETTY BATTEN
Answer: The tennis players had arrived at the court and were — SET TO PLAY

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

Crossword

1/17



Across

1 Some cast-iron cookware
5 Letters on a foundation?
8 Singer Redding
12 Reebok rival
13 Husband-to-be
15 "That hurt!"
16 Oval Office override
17 Trivial
18 On the house
19 Doc with an otoscope
20 Component of some paint and nails
22 "More info soon"
23 Severe
25 Had a bite
26 Angels' auras
28 With crisp resolution
29 Currency with loonies and toonies, briefly
30 Kingston with a recurring role on "Doctor Who"
31 Textspeak qualifier
32 Leveling strips
34 "You only live __"
36 Nourish
37 Prefix meaning "primitive"
38 Recover
39 Causing goose bumps, maybe
41 Clobbers
43 French couture monogram
44 Green prefix
46 Noodle soup garnished with basil and lime
47 Hawaii's Mauna __
48 Revelatory cries
49 Overnight __: breakfast dish
51 Option on In-N-Out Burger's not-so-secret menu, or the fashion sense that includes the answers to the starred clues?
54 Arrange in a row
56 Obtained
57 "Yer __ here!"
60 Spanish toast
61 Prefix with Pen
62 Unit of salt or sand
63 Group of friends
64 Place that may be kept quiet?
65 Suitably

Down

1 Surfer's need
2 Kitchen counters?
3 *Short stiletto
4 "Saint," in Portuguese place names
5 Condiment also known as "rooster sauce"
6 *Updo in a scrunchie, maybe
7 "I had no idea!"
8 "That hurt!"
9 *Shirt with a snug collar
10 Chilled dessert
11 Storage structures
13 Hummer EV automaker
14 Hosp. scan
20 "Your point being?"
21 Tea, in Mandarin
24 Valerie Harper sitcom of the 1970s
27 Waikiki welcome
31 Far from certain
32 Hidden video gadget
33 "Your point being?"
35 Idina's "Frozen" role
40 "President Barack Obama" portraitist __ Wiley
42 Exercise discipline in a very warm studio
45 Great Plains people
46 Sticky note
48 Scottish beef cattle
50 Drink noisily
51 Isn't well
52 Easy stride
53 Californie, par exemple
54 Venomous snake
55 Thai neighbor
58 "Don't knock it __ you try it"
59 "__ minute now"

Monday's solution

By Rebecca Goldstein. Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis.

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BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

1				9	3			
4	2						1	
	3						9	
			7	3		6		5
7				5				1
6		4		1	9			
	7						2	
	1						5	7
			2	7				3

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

3	6	1	5	7	2	8	4	9
7	5	4	8	9	6	2	1	3
9	2	8	1	4	3	6	7	5
2	3	7	6	1	8	4	5	9
1	4	9	2	5	6	3	8	7
5	8	6	4	3	7	1	9	2
4	9	5	6	2	1	7	3	8
6	1	3	7	8	5	9	2	4
8	7	2	3	9	4	5	6	1

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4/24/18

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Famous mononyms (one-word names) 201

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

H B Z D H B X R N Y O G B N O P H Z
E R A Y U W C A G I N K E N E N G L
R A B N B W V G E I O F E R A O E U
G N M A Y O A R T Z M M T R V P R L
E D S M N H G S M R A Y M I A A O U
A Y F O S K C P E L E E N C I M N J
G H D L R V S W N G R D W O S F I A
M Y S J E J N Y I U J L T M A X M N
S H V E D A C J M E W I E M T D O N
A P J D K Q Y U E A H K B O N L P A
T L K I M B R A R I W N C N A O R H
N O U P B J O R K A D E L E F R I I
O D L L H B I A H Q B L P G B D N R
H U D X I O A Y T E L L E R O E C X
A S E C R M D E C N O Y E B C H E R
C H N I M A N W D X J C U D R A K E
O E Y G L R B C E R O M E L K C A M
P R A A R A D H N A R O N A L D O Q

AARADHNA
ADELE
AKIHITO
ALULIM
BANKSY
BECK
BEYONCE
BJORK
BRANDY
CHER
CHYNA
COMMON
DOLPHY
DONOVAN
DRAKE
DYNAMO
EAMON
EMINEM
ENYA
FANTASIA
FLEA
GERONIMO
GOVINDJEE
HERGE
IMAN
KESHA
KIMBRA
LADYHAWKE
LORDE
LULU
MACKLEMORE
MAREKO
NARMER
NELLY
NENE
PELE
POCAHONTAS
PRINCE
RIHANNA
RONALDO
SHAGGY
STING
TELLER
USHER
WARRIOR

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™ BUPH WOLS GOKE AGLM

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

X	P	A	G
C	N	U	R
Y	O	T	E
L	I	G	H

10-24-20

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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31 - 60 = Gamer
- 21 - 30 = Rookie
- 11 - 20 = Amateur
- 0 - 10 = Try again

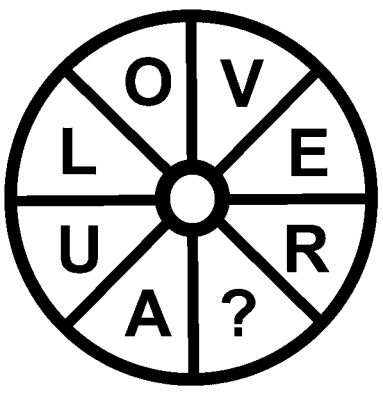
Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE FELINES in the grid of letters.

LYNX LION TIGER COUGAR PANTHER

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

OVERHAUL

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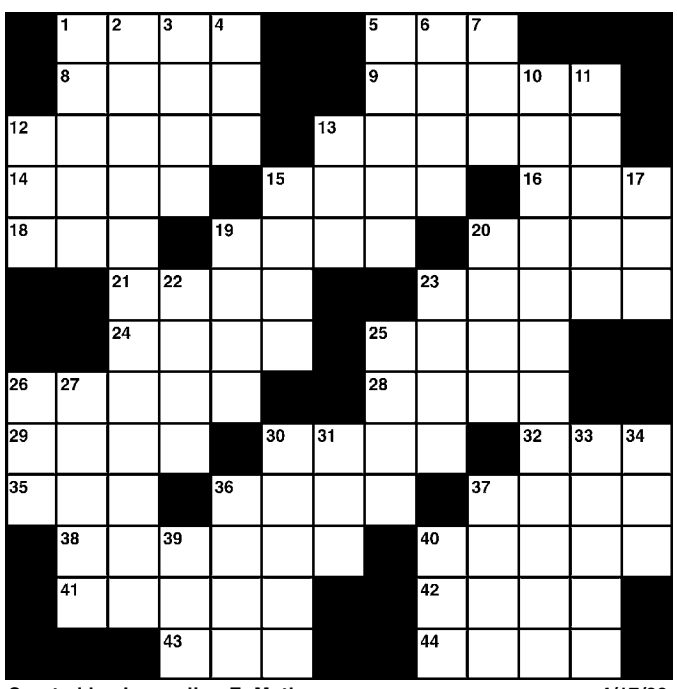
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/17/22

ACROSS
1 "__ Betty"
5 Morton of "Chicago P.D."
8 Actor Scott
9 Carey & Barrymore
12 Actress Sophia
13 Colorful drink
14 Dumbo's "wings"
15 Allen & Daly
16 K-O connection
18 Gobbled up
19 "__ the night before Christmas…"
20 Wily scheme
21 Hatcher or Garr
23 1953 Alan Ladd western film
24 Math class, for short
25 __ and Span; cleaning product
26 Sylvester Stallone thriller
28 Alan __ Jr. of "Gilligan's Island"
29 Woodwind instrument
30 Gentile of "The Goldbergs"
32 Chem. or biol.
35 Yogi's buddy, for short
36 "Deal __ Deal"
37 "Eyes Wide __"; Cruise/Kidman film
38 One of the planets
40 Terrors
41 "__ of Endearment"; Nicholson movie
42 Regulations
43 "How I __ Your Mother"
44 Bancroft or Murray

DOWN
1 German submarine
2 Role on "Blue Bloods"
3 "Big Little __" (2017-19)
4 Hither and __; in many places
5 Sandler & Brody
6 Med. scans
7 "Are We There __?"; Ice Cube film
10 Actor on "Young Sheldon"
11 "America's Got Talent" judge
12 Actress Michele
13 Farrow or Sara
15 Tiny branch
17 "Bill __ the Science Guy"
19 Musketeers or Stooges
20 "Dr. __"
22 Actress Kathryn
23 ASPCA advice
25 "Beat it!"
26 Carl Reiner's son
27 "Mad __ You"
30 Confidence
31 ICU staff
33 Use foul language
34 "__ a Living" (1980-89)
36 "Lean __"; popular 1972 song
37 Astin or Lennon
39 Sleeve filler
40 "Empty Nest" setting: abbr.

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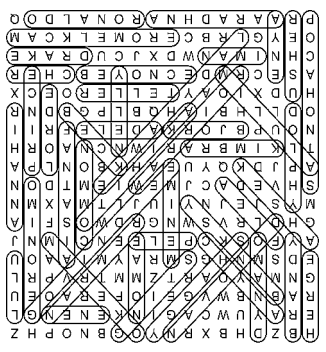
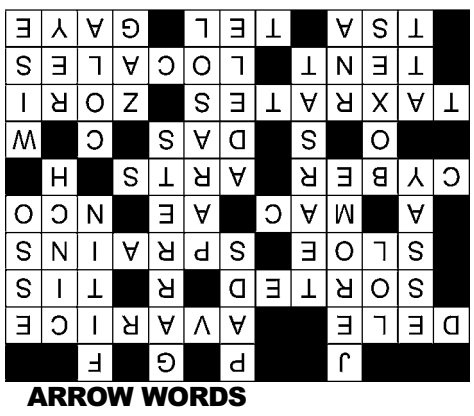


Famous mononyms (one-word names)

A C C O R D I N G



JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SHIWK

BOTUD

CRUCEA

ROCUSH

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

It's "Bennie and the Jets"!
Oh, this brings back memories.
2/14
WHEN THE PIANIST BEGAN THE SONG BY PLAYING THREE NOTES TOGETHER, HE

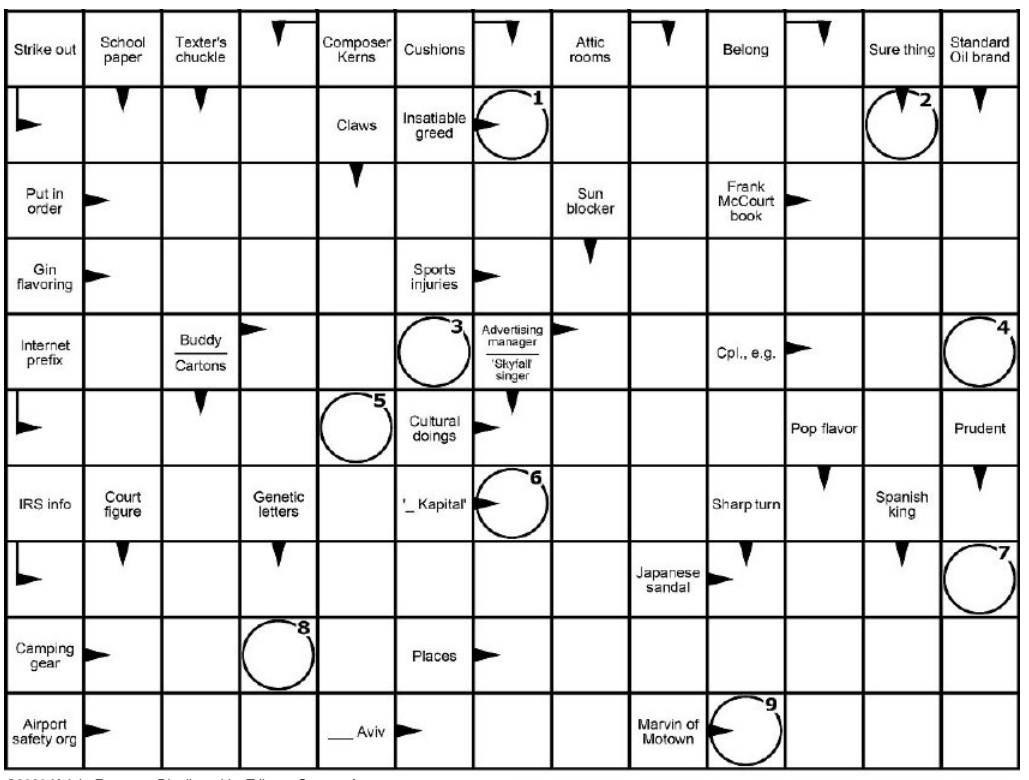
Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: WHISK DOUBT ACCRUE CHORUS
Answer: When the pianist began the song by playing three notes together, he — STRUCK A CHORD

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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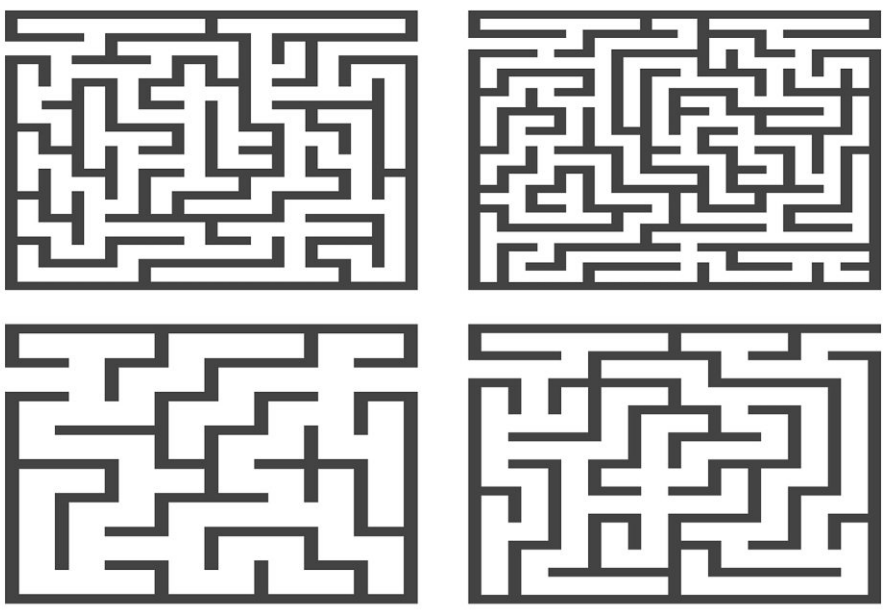
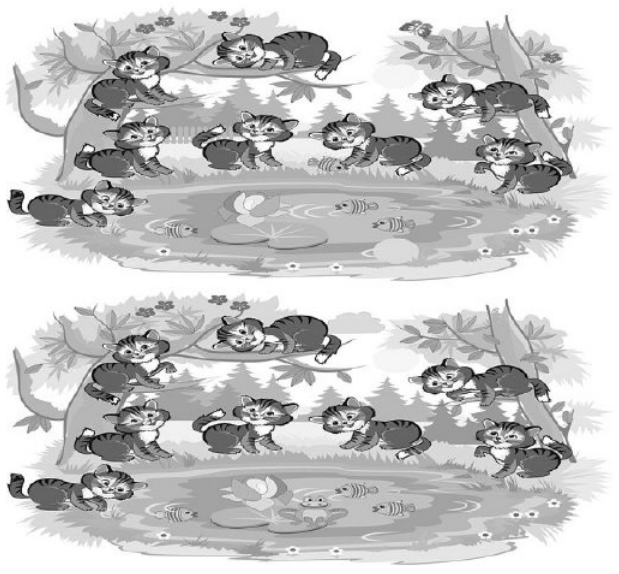
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES





Find 10 differences

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors

BEARS

Kevin Warren, shown in 2020, will guide the Bears into an important offseason. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

WWKWD?

Among big offseason questions: What will Kevin Warren do?

By Brad Biggs, Colleen Kane and Dan Wiederer | Chicago Tribune

A lot of hope is swirling around a Bears team that finished the season on a franchise-record 10-game losing streak. But that's what happens when the Bears head into the offseason with the No. 1 pick in the 2023 draft, a boatload of cash to spend in free agency and a high-profile new president and CEO. As President Kevin Warren and general manager Ryan Poles get ready for a big year, the Tribune's team of Bears writers tackles four questions facing the team.

Turn to Bears, *Page 3*

Phil Thompson
On the Blackhawks

Should he stay or should he go?

At what point do Hawks decide on the best spot for Reichel?

In any sport, few things invite a challenge more than a rookie.

Which one do you draft? Who's the right coach? What's the right system?

But most debatable of all: When do you throw him or her to the wolves?

That particularly comes into play with sports such as baseball and hockey, in which most players' paths to the big leagues carry them through the minors — and in some cases back and forth for years.

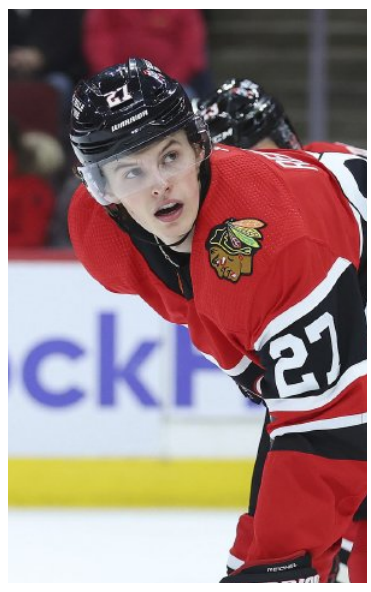
And here's the conundrum, as it pertains to public scrutiny, for anyone whose job is to map prospects' development: Keep them in the minors, you're stunting their potential; bring them up too soon, you're destroying their development.

The Blackhawks may have wrestled with such a decision last week when they reassigned Lukas Reichel to Rockford on Friday after he turned in clearly his best three games in Chicago to date.

Who knows what prompted general manager Kyle Davidson to arrange an impromptu scrum with reporters Saturday, but Davidson felt the urge to explain his guiding philosophy about Reichel in particular and prospects in general.

"It's an organizational philosophy ... but everything is case by case," Davidson said. "Let's (be honest), we're chasing most

Turn to Thompson, *Page 2*



The Hawks' Lukas Reichel waits for action to resume against the Flames on Jan. 8 at the United Center. **MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY**

UP NEXT

Sabres at Blackhawks 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, NBCSCH

WHITE SOX

Ex-shortstop Uribe's son joins Sox prospects

He's among the team's 7 new international free-agent signees

By LaMond Pope
Chicago Tribune

Juan Uribe's defensive heroics during the final inning of the 2005 World Series will always be part of White Sox lore.

His son Juan Uribe Jr. took the next step in his baseball journey Sunday, coming to terms with the Sox during the international signing period.

Uribe Jr. was one of seven international free-agent signees the Sox announced Monday. The group also includes right-handed pitcher Luis Reyes, the No. 41 international prospect in 2023 according to MLB.com.

The terms with Uribe Jr. — a 5-foot-10, 170-pound second baseman who resides in Nizao, Dominican Republic — include a $200,000 signing bonus.

"It was definitely a very emotional moment for my family, a very happy moment for all of us," Uribe Jr. said through an interpreter Monday on a video conference call. "I'm just glad and very proud to be part of the White Sox organization."

He said his biggest baseball lessons from his dad were "how to love this game, how to play with

Turn to White Sox, *Page 2*

Former White Sox shortstop Juan Uribe, rear, with his son Juan Uribe Jr., left, and Albert Alberto. The Sox announced the signing of Uribe Jr., Alberto and five other international free agents on Monday. **COURTESY**

CUBS

'Like a new life' for Hosmer in Chicago

After enduring rough 2022 season, he's excited about 2023

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

Free to choose his 2023 team, Eric Hosmer took note of the National League Central.

He believes it's a wide-open division, which made the Cubs an attractive destination between his familiarity with some of the coaching staff and their offseason additions.

"When you look at the team, you look at the middle of the field with Nico (Hoerner), Dansby (Swanson) and then Cody (Bellinger) out there in center and you just say, 'Wow, that's a heck of a defense right there,' " Hosmer said over the weekend at the Cubs Convention.

"And you just know that when you play those games, especially meaningful games late in the season and in October, you can't give away free outs, you can't give away a free 90 feet. And when you see the guys that they have on the defensive side, you see that's just not going to happen here, so (it's) definitely appealing."

Hosmer, 33, is coming off a challenging year that included a trade from the San Diego Padres and offensive inconsistency coupled with a lower-back injury that limited him to 14 games with

Turn to Cubs, *Page 2*

Team	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BULLS			DET (in Paris) 2 p.m. | NBCSCH		
BLACKHAWKS	BUF 7:30 p.m. | NBCSCH		@PHI 6 p.m. | NBCSCH		@STL 7 p.m. | NBCSCH

TOP OF THE SECOND

Cubs first baseman Eric Hosmer is introduced at the opening ceremony of the Cubs Convention on Friday at the Sheraton Grand Chicago. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Cubs

from Page 1

the Red Sox.

Hosmer called it a crazy situation to leave San Diego when "you really don't expect to get traded and you get traded." He initially was going to be dealt to the Washington Nationals, but a no-trade clause in his contract allowed him to veto the deal.

The Red Sox released him after the season, leading to a one-year contract with the Cubs. Hosmer will get opportunities at first base and designated hitter.

"It's kind of like a new life, and you want to make the most of every opportunity — and for this opportunity for me personally, I feel like it's a great one," Hosmer said. "The main thing everyone says, especially around the league, is when you play at Wrigley Field it feels like the state championship every game. It's just a different energy. It's a different atmosphere.

"Maybe (a change of scenery) is a good thing. I didn't play much baseball in the second half of last year. I was hurt in Boston and carried that to the end of the offseason, so that's a good reset for me. And now to parlay that with signing here in Chicago, that's enough motivation as you can have."

International amateur signings: The Cubs have been active among the top talent as the international amateur signing period began Sunday.

They have signed three of the top 20 international prospects: 16-year-old shortstop Derniche Valdez from the Dominican Republic ($2.8 million bonus, ranked No. 6), 17-year-old shortstop Ludwig Espinoza from Venezuela ($1.5 million, No. 14) and 17-year-old shortstop Angel Cepeda from the Dominican Republic ($1 million, No. 19).

As of Monday, the team had not officially announced any international signings.

The Cubs have a $5,284,000 allotment for their international signing pool. The international signing period remains open until Dec. 15.

World Baseball Classic opportunities: Cubs first base prospect Matt Mervis is preparing for an atypical spring training.

Mervis was included on Team Israel's preliminary expanded roster for the World Baseball Classic, and he expects to play in the tournament after getting clearance from the Cubs. Israel general manager Peter Kurz indicated to Mervis he will be on the final WBC roster.

"It's really exciting for me, it's an honor for me and I want to make my family proud, I want to make Team Israel proud," Mervis said. "Getting that experience playing in a big environment like that, I mean, it's in Miami, so their crowds are going to be loud and excited.

"It was really a no-brainer for me. The only thing I had to consider was if the Cubs wanted me to leave or were willing to allow me to leave Arizona and go have that experience, and they supported me and allowed me to make the decision."

Mervis is not stressing about trying to prove he deserves to be on the Cubs' opening-day roster.

"I'm going to approach it how I did during the season and just try to wake up every day and have a good day of baseball," Mervis said over the weekend. "I'm not going to put any extra pressure on myself trying to make the team by having a great game and spring training because those guys are smarter than that.

"They're not going to see me hit a home run or whatever and say, yeah, he's ready to go. Obviously they're going to do a little bit more work than that and evaluate things however they need to."

The additions of Hosmer and Trey Mancini likely will prevent Mervis, 24, from starting the season in Chicago. He could get a shot at some point in 2023, especially if he gets on a roll and puts up the numbers he did last season, when he tallied 40 doubles, 36 home runs, a .379 on-base percentage and a .984 OPS in 137 games as he progressed through three levels.

Owen Caissie confirmed Saturday he is on Team Canada's preliminary WBC roster. The 20-year-old outfielder found out about two weeks ago he would be included on the initial roster.

"I'm just really excited for the opportunity to represent my country," Caissie said. "I was hopeful. I knew it was a possibility. But as soon as I got the call, I was pretty happy."

Team Canada will work out at the Cubs facility in Mesa, Ariz., in the lead-up to WBC pool play, which begins March 11 for that group.

The Cubs will play Team Canada in an exhibition game March 8 at Sloan Park.

White Sox

from Page 1

love and how to do your best because this is a very special game."

His father played 16 seasons in the majors, including five with the Sox. He raced over from shortstop and wound up in the stands while making a spectacular catch on a foul pop for the second out of the ninth in Game 4 of the 2005 World Series against the Houston Astros.

Uribe made another great play, fielding a slow roller and firing to first for the final out to secure a 1-0 victory and the team's first title since 1917.

"I always talk to him about my time with the White Sox and how important my time with them was for my career and how Chicago feels like home to me," Uribe Sr. said through an interpreter. "As a father, I couldn't ask for anything better. It's the right fit for him and I love it.

"I'm proud of the player that he is and the player that he's going to become and how he's going to represent the Chicago White Sox. I want him to reach his dream."

Marco Paddy, special assistant to the general manager, international operations, cited Uribe Jr.'s "very short swing" during a video conference call.

"There's no question about his hitting ability," Paddy said. "He inherited that from his dad. He handles the bat extremely well."

Uribe Jr., 16, bats and throws right-handed. He isn't the only Sox signee with a link to the big leagues.

Outfielder Abraham Núñez Jr. — whose deal included a $700,000 signing bonus — is the son of former major-league outfielder Abraham Núñez, who played for the Florida Marlins (2002, '04) and Kansas City Royals (2004).

Núñez, also 16, is a 6-foot-2, 175-pound native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, who bats left-handed and throws right-handed.

"Very high energy, aggressive, athletic. He can play all three outfield positions," Paddy said. "He'll probably end up in a corner just because he's such a tall kid, and if you look at his dad, his dad was a big man too. He's got speed, he's got power.

"But the one unique thing about Abraham is he has a feel for the strike zone. He knows how to adjust to pitches. He can recognize the breaking ball and he's a guy who sprays the ball all over the field."

Paddy described Reyes, 17, as "a power arm." MLB Pipeline ranks the 6-foot-2, 185-pounder as the No. 4 international pitching prospect.

A native of Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic, Reyes played for the Miami Miracles travel team in several U.S. tournaments and Perfect Game events in 2020-21. His deal includes a $700,000 signing bonus.

"He's got a power fastball, a slider and a changeup," Paddy said. "For a young kid — I started seeing Luis at the age of 14, almost 15 years old — he's a guy that dominates throwing pitches. He's got a clean arm, good mechanics and good size.

"I've seen him pitch and being able to adjust. Even though he was a younger kid, he was able to adjust to older competition extremely well."

The Sox also signed right-hander Denny Lima ($10,000 bonus), outfielder Albert Alberto ($50,000) and infielders D'Angelo Tejada ($350,000) and Rafael Álvarez ($350,000).

The team anticipates more signings in the coming weeks.

"Coming back from the Christmas break, you have to make sure that everybody's healthy and everybody is ready to go," Paddy said. "We'll be announcing some signings in Venezuela pretty soon."

Thompson

from Page 1

games here and I don't think that's necessarily conducive to extremely positive development.

"There's great situations in Rockford, where our young players have to go out and defend a league and defend close games, and they get opportunities to play and score and come back from tight games against other really good teams.

"It's not necessarily a blanket philosophy moving forward, but we're just going to make the best decision with the information and situations we have now. And that's what we think it is right now."

The thing is, the situation in Chicago is likely to change, and then we'll see how ardent the Hawks are about that doctrine.

One reason Reichel was called up for four games over the last month-and-a-half is injuries.

What happens in the likelihood the Hawks start trading veterans? Someone has to replace them and possibly let it ride the rest of the season.

The Hawks probably will rotate defensemen in such a case, but who among the current IceHogs is going to push Reichel?

Reichel dealt with the disappointment of not making the roster out of training camp and continues to say the right things about making the most of his time in Rockford, but he never has shied away from saying he has earned an extended run in the NHL and thinks he's better served learning with the Hawks.

"I try to play as much as I can in the (NHL), and every game you get experience," he said last week. "Even when you don't play good, you try to focus on what you can do better — watch video. It helps a lot."

There's a lot Reichel can gain from being around coach Luke Richardson and his staff — which includes former Hawks interim coach and IceHogs coach Derek King — every day.

Richardson is forming the building blocks of his system and locker room culture, and it would be good to get Reichel, presumably a future leader and conveyor of Richardson's message, in on the ground floor.

That also applies to defenseman Isaak Phillips, who celebrated a career milestone Saturday with his first NHL goal amid the Hawks getting railroaded by the Seattle Kraken.

But Richardson, a first-year coach, is deferring to his boss's game plan: He'll deal with the cards as they're dealt.

"I've had them in training camp," Richardson said. "Philly has been here for a bit, Reichel has been here four games and some practices and exhibition games and probably more later in the season. This is pretty much the plan I was told. We were going to flip-flop some guys and try to have a better team in Rockford this year and let these guys win and understand how they can push to win more and have bigger roles in that area.

"And then when they come up here, try to translate that through (to the NHL level), whether it's a few games this year or the whole year next year or half the year next year, whatever it is for each individual player. My job is just whatever we feel, the management — and they always include me — but they have a plan in mind to have that rotation when there's (an) opening and not bring a bunch of young guys and have games like last game where it gets out of control and it fails and you have anxiety and you can't even play to the skill level that you have."

Among the skaters who have split time this season between Rockford and Chicago, defenseman Filip Roos logged the most games (15) in Chicago, though he hasn't played with the Hawks since Dec. 6 as they want him to find more consistency.

Goalie Arvid Söderblom also appeared in 15 games, and the Hawks praised his calm in handling 13 starts against elite competition after being pressed into duty because of injuries. He has been back in Rockford since Dec. 19.

"We're doing the right thing, and I like how management is approaching it," Richardson said. "They always keep me informed. They ask my opinion, but I think it's already been set, how we want to go forward with this movement. From what I've seen, guys have come up and done well, and that's what we want.

"Now we want to get (defenseman Ian) Mitchell back in in the next couple games and get him playing two or three games in a row at least, not just one game and then out. So that's why we wanted to let Philly have two or three games to build confidence. ... The position is tough and it's a fast game."

"Potential" is a terrific attribute ascribed to many young players, deservedly or not.

"Confidence" is a much more fragile attribute at this stage and one the Hawks are handling with kid gloves.

Bears general manager Ryan Poles, left, and coach Matt Eberflus speak to the media during an end-of-season news conference Jan. 10 at Halas Hall. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Bears

from Page 1

The hiring of Kevin Warren as president was _____.

Brad Biggs: Wonderful timing for the organization.

Ted Phillips' retirement occurred when the franchise was able to attract a seemingly perfect candidate with experience at the highest levels of the NFL and an understanding of the dynamics involved in seeking and building a new stadium. In going outside the organization with at least a few qualified internal candidates, Chairman George McCaskey opted for a new president who no doubt will infuse Halas Hall with fresh ideas and perspectives. Considering where the Bears are off the field — attempting to finalize the purchase of land in Arlington Heights — and on the field — no postseason wins in 12 years — it looks like an ideal move.

Colleen Kane: A move that should give Bears fans hope.

Warren has all the right credentials for the position, not the least of which is his oversight of the Vikings building U.S. Bank Stadium, a gorgeous facility that is a great model for what the Bears could build in Arlington Heights. His tenure as Big Ten commissioner showed his ability to get big things done, from the additions of USC and UCLA to the conference to a massive media-rights deal, even if there's lingering criticism over his early handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. We don't know yet if his hiring will help the Bears put a better product on the football field than they have for most of the last decade.

But Warren's track record makes him an obvious choice to lead the charge to build a better organization at Halas Hall — and in Arlington Heights.

Dan Wiederer: Refreshing and energizing.

With Phillips retiring next month, the Bears had an opportunity to re-imagine how they will operate. Pursuing Warren was a swing-for-the-fences approach. And his hiring shows the Bears connected on the sweet spot of the barrel. Warren will instantly energize Halas Hall with his think-big ambition and vision-backed leadership. His presence will be notable. Plus, his past experience as Vikings chief operating officer will be invaluable to the organization's pursuit of a new stadium in Arlington Heights. With Warren providing direction from the top of the organization, there will be a new and healthy pressure inside Halas Hall that will fuel every department to chase achievement on a weekly basis. "Good enough" no longer will be good enough. Complacency no longer will be acceptable or overlooked. Everyone in the organization will be pushed to elevate their performance. That includes general manager Ryan Poles, whose union with Warren should be productive as the Bears look to climb the standings ladder.

Ryan Poles should do _____ with the top pick.

Biggs: Make it business as usual for the time being.

It's highly unlikely a trade — the most talked-about topic in town — would materialize anytime soon. The last time the No. 1 pick was traded, the St. Louis Rams moved up from No. 15 in a deal with the Tennessee Titans. That happened on April 14, 2016, two weeks before the draft. Three years ago the San Francisco 49ers moved up from No. 12 to No. 3 to be in position to draft a quarterback that turned out to be Trey Lance. That deal

Members of the Bears offense help quarterback Justin Fields up after he was tackled by the Commanders on Oct. 13 at Soldier Field. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

with the Miami Dolphins happened on March 26, 2020, four weeks before the draft. If there is a deal to be made — and it's possible no team believes a quarterback in this class is worth moving up to No. 1 for — it's more than two months away. So barring something unexpected, Poles has to prepare for free agency with the idea he will stay put at No. 1 and use that pick. That means heavy scouting for free agency, in which the Bears are expected to be active, and a comprehensive review of the draft from top to bottom.

Basically, nothing changes unless a team calls with a package Poles believes would be more valuable to the franchise than the player he could take at No. 1. Obviously, that involves having a crystal-clear idea of how the top of the draft board will be stacked.

Kane: Dig into what trade options are available.

While Poles and Bears coaches and players insisted it was difficult to stomach the Week 18 loss to the Vikings to finish the season 3-14, that Sunday couldn't have played out more perfectly for the organization. Considering the Houston Texans almost certainly are looking at a quarterback at No. 2, the Bears have the chance to trade the No. 1 pick to a quarterback-thirsty team for more draft capital.

And depending on their offers, the Bears still could end up with a spot good enough to draft one of the top non-QBs. While Poles certainly could stay at No. 1 to make sure he gets his pick of players, trade scenarios seem like the way to go considering how many holes Poles has to fill on the roster.

Wiederer: Be open-minded.

Poles never again will have this kind of luxury and flexibility to make any decision he sees fit for the team's future. If teams come calling with trade offers for quarterback Justin Fields, Poles has to listen. If it's the No. 1 pick that teams want and they're offering a gift basket of premium draft selections, it's Poles' responsibility to turn that into an auction.

With the number of holes the Bears have on their roster, the more opportunities they get to add potential impact playmakers over the next couple of years, the better.

Poles has been candid in saying he's not pressuring himself to make an instant 2023 turnaround after the Bears finished with a franchise-record and league-high 14 losses. His hope is to chart a course that sets up the Bears for sustainable success. Through that lens, in this moment in time, it's imperative to work through all possibilities.

The Bears' biggest needs are _____.

Biggs: In the trenches.

The Bears have issues at nearly every position, but as a former offensive lineman, Ryan Poles has to understand his work must begin up front. This isn't minimizing the need for a dynamic wide receiver or overlooking holes at weak-side linebacker and cornerback. Those are legitimate issues that require conversations and consideration. But the defensive line was woeful in 2022. The Bears couldn't rush the quarterback or stop the run. Wholesale changes are required there via free agency and the draft. Poles drafted four offensive linemen on Day 3 last year and signed three stopgap veterans in Riley Reiff, Lucas Patrick and Michael Schofield. It's possible the Bears hit on a long-term option at left tackle in Braxton Jones. However, they have to commit significantly greater resources to the line. They won't be consistently competitive until they no longer are overmatched up front.

Kane: Pass rushers, offensive linemen and a wide receiver.

And those are just the start. The Bears have needs at a ton of positions, as would be expected of a 3-14 team. I listed pass rushers first because after Poles dealt Khalil Mack and Robert Quinn, the Bears finished with a league-worst 20 sacks in 2022 — safety Jaquan Brisker led the team with four. Bears defensive linemen didn't register often as playmakers this season, and that's a problem. I listed offensive linemen next because Justin Fields was sacked 55 times, tied for the most in the NFL with Russell Wilson. While Bears offensive linemen helped pave the way for a league-best rushing attack, pass protection was not where it needed to be and Poles should be in the market for an offensive tackle first. The Bears' leading wide receiver was Darnell Mooney with 40 catches for 493 yards in 12 games, followed by Equanimeous St. Brown with 21 catches for 323 yards. Those are not the numbers of a healthy passing attack. Mooney, St. Brown and Chase Claypool will be back next season, and Poles downplayed the need to add a No. 1 receiver. I think the Bears need one.

Wiederer: Everywhere. Truly.

The 2022 Bears were terrible at stopping the run, unproductive rushing the passer, disappointing with their pass protection and historically bad throwing the football. So you choose where to start. Replenish and rebuild the defensive front seven? Go for it. That's a must. Find offensive linemen who can better protect Fields? That would certainly help the bid for offensive balance after the Bears led the NFL in rushing and finished last in passing. Playmakers and pass catchers to make Fields' job easier? Yep, that too. Poles has a golden opportunity to use his free-agency and draft resources to revitalize the depth chart. He also has the luxury of being right with whatever area of the team he chooses to prioritize.

Justin Fields' 2022 season was ____.

Biggs: A thrill ride.

The Bears offense at times was a big-play machine. They led the NFL with eight runs of 40 or more yards and were tied for second with 20 carries of 20 or more yards. Many of those were designed runs for Fields or plays he created.

Here are the Bears totals of explosive runs and passes over the last four seasons, with their league ranking in parentheses:

40+ runs
- 2022: 8 (1)
- 2021: 1 (T-15)
- 2020: 3 (T-7)
- 2019: 2 (T-14)

20+ runs
- 2022: 20 (T-2)
- 2021: 13 (T-7)
- 2020: 8 (T-22)
- 2019: 5 (30)

40+ passes
- 2022: 7 (T-17)
- 2021: 7 (T-21)
- 2020: 3 (T-31)
- 2019: 2 (32)

20+ passes
- 2022: 37 (30)
- 2021: 40 (29)
- 2020: 42 (25)
- 2019: 39 (29)

Fields was involved in eight touchdowns of 25 or more yards, something the Bears as a team had only 11 of over the previous three seasons combined. The big-play element Fields adds to the offense is real and likely a key reason the team is expected to try to improve around him next season. The passing offense as a whole, however, remains a mess. There were 315 instances of a team having at least 200 net passing yards in the 2022 season. The Bears accounted for two. With six losses by 16 or more points, it's concerning that Fields and the rest of the offense couldn't produce better passing numbers when trying to play catch-up in the second half. The Bears have to give Fields a better chance to succeed, and he has to be considerably better at managing the position next season.

Kane: At times exhilarating and at times frustrating.

It was also fun. Who knew we would be able to say that about a season in which the Bears finished with a team-record 14 losses? Fields made it fun by wowing with his running ability in many games and showing flashes of brilliance with his arm. But the passing game's struggles also made it frustrating, and, yes, those struggles fall in part on the offensive linemen and wide receivers but also on the quarterback. It's OK to be realistic about that while acknowledging that Fields' playmaking ability has sparked a real hope among Bears fans that he is on track to be the star quarterback for which they've been waiting.

Wiederer: A step in the right direction.

Bears coaches challenged the second-year quarterback to demonstrate energizing leadership, show growth with his pocket presence and flash playmaking potential on a consistent basis. Check, check and check. If you didn't feel the energy Fields brought in 2022, you were stubbornly trying not to. The Bears never have had a quarterback with this kind of electricity or this much long-term potential. And that is to be embraced and built upon. Still, the final summary of Fields' second season also can be summarized like this: "He has come a long way and he still has a long, long way to go." Becoming a quality playmaking starter is one thing. Solidifying yourself as a top-tier franchise quarterback is quite another. And to that latter point, Fields' flaws and deficiencies in the passing game need to be addressed. He has to become quicker and more decisive with his reads. He has to improve his efficiency and productivity as a passer. He has to gain greater timing and rhythm in the pocket.

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SPORTS

Illinois' Matthew Mayer grabs his own rebound while defended by Minnesota's Jamison Battle (10) and Braeden Carrington, right, on Monday in Minneapolis. **CRAIG LASSIG/AP**

ILLINOIS 78, MINNESOTA 60

2nd half surge carries Illini to 4th win in row

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Matthew Mayer had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Illinois used a big second half to beat Minnesota 78-60 on Monday night for its fourth straight victory.

Illinois pulled away in the opening five minutes of the second half with a 12-0 run to build a 47-36 lead.

The Illini extended it to 55-41 after nine minutes as Minnesota made just 3 of 13 shots to start the half.

Illinois dominated the paint with a 54-28 edge in points and 50-29 in rebounds. The Illini held Minnesota to 36% shooting, including 3 of 13 from 3-point range. The Gophers were 15 of 25 at the free-throw line.

Illinois has won five consecutive games in the series — and three straight at Minnesota.

Dain Dainja and Terrence Shannon Jr. each added 11 points for Illinois (13-5, 4-3 Big Ten), which hosts Indiana on Thursday. Freshman Jayden Epps scored 10 points and Mayer, a super senior who transferred from Baylor, recorded his first career double-double.

Mayer made an open 3-pointer from the corner in the closing seconds of the first half to give Illinois a 35-32 lead. Minnesota is 0-8 this season when trailing at halftime.

Dawson Garcia had 17 points and Ta'lon Cooper scored 16 for Minnesota (7-9, 1-5), which is back in action Thursday against No. 3 Purdue.

FIRE

Aston Villa signs Durán from the Fire for $18M

Associated Press

LONDON — Aston Villa reached an agreement Monday to sign striker Jhon Durán from the Chicago Fire for a reported $18 million.

The 19-year-old Durán scored eight goals in 22 appearances for the Fire last season and has played three times for Colombia.

Villa said the deal was subject to Durán passing a medical examination, agreeing to personal terms and obtaining a working visa.

Durán will become Villa's second signing of the January transfer window after left back Alex Moreno from Real Betis.

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SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	33	12	.733	—
Brooklyn	27	15	.643	4 ½
Philadelphia	27	16	.628	5
New York	25	20	.556	8
Toronto	20	24	.455	12 ½

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	24	21	.533	—
Atlanta	22	22	.500	1 ½
Washington	18	26	.409	5 ½
Orlando	16	28	.364	7 ½
Charlotte	11	34	.244	13

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	28	16	.636	—
Cleveland	28	17	.622	½
Indiana	23	22	.511	5 ½
Chicago	20	24	.455	8
Detroit	12	35	.255	17 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	30	13	.698	—
New Orleans	26	18	.591	4 ½
Dallas	24	21	.533	7
San Antonio	13	31	.295	17 ½
Houston	10	33	.233	20

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	30	13	.698	—
Utah	23	24	.489	9
Minnesota	22	23	.489	9
Portland	21	22	.488	9
Oklahoma City	21	23	.477	9 ½

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Sacramento	24	18	.571	—
L.A. Clippers	23	22	.511	2 ½
Golden State	22	22	.500	3
Phoenix	21	24	.467	4 ½
L.A. Lakers	19	24	.442	5 ½

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Boston 130, Charlotte 118
Milwaukee 132, Indiana 119
Cleveland 113, New Orleans 103
Golden State 127, Washington 118
Toronto 123, New York 121, OT
Atlanta 121, Miami 113
Utah 126, Minnesota 125
Memphis 136, Phoenix 106
Houston at L.A. Lakers, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at Milwaukee, 6:30p.m.
Brooklyn at San Antonio, 7p.m.
Portland at Denver, 8p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
New York 117, Detroit 104
L.A. Clippers 121, Houston 100
Chicago 132, Golden State 118
Oklahoma City 112, Brooklyn 102
Sacramento 132, San Antonio 119
Denver 119, Orlando 116
Portland 140, Dallas 123
Philadelphia 113, L.A. Lakers 112

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Boston	43	34	5	4	72	166	94
Toronto	44	26	11	7	59	147	117
Tampa Bay	42	28	13	1	57	152	122
Florida	45	21	20	4	46	148	153
Buffalo	42	21	19	2	44	160	146
Detroit	42	18	17	7	43	131	145
Ottawa	42	19	20	3	41	125	137
Montreal	44	18	23	3	39	116	162
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	44	27	9	8	62	141	120
New Jersey	44	29	12	3	61	156	116
N.Y. Rangers	45	25	13	7	57	144	120
Washington	45	23	16	6	52	144	126
Pittsburgh	43	22	15	6	50	139	130
N.Y. Islanders	44	23	18	3	49	133	120
Philadelphia	44	18	19	7	43	122	143
Columbus	43	13	28	2	28	110	170

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Winnipeg	44	29	14	1	59	148	114
Dallas	45	26	12	7	59	156	119
Minnesota	42	24	14	4	52	134	118
Colorado	42	22	17	3	47	131	121
St. Louis	44	21	20	3	45	139	159
Nashville	42	19	17	6	44	118	126
Arizona	43	13	25	5	31	115	158
Chicago	41	11	26	4	26	94	154
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Vegas	45	28	15	2	58	147	130
Seattle	43	26	13	4	56	159	134
Los Angeles	46	25	15	6	56	154	157
Calgary	44	21	14	9	51	142	134
Edmonton	45	24	18	3	51	164	150
Vancouver	43	18	22	3	39	150	173
San Jose	45	13	23	9	35	137	172
Anaheim	44	12	27	5	29	103	185

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Florida 4, Buffalo 1
Boston 6, Philadelphia 0
Colorado 6, Detroit 3
Tampa Bay 4, Seattle 1
New Jersey 4, San Jose 3(SO)
Dallas 4, Vegas 0
Pittsburgh 4, Anaheim 3 (OT)
N.Y. Rangers 3, Columbus 1
Washington at N.Y. Islanders, late
Calgary at Nashville, late
Ottawa at St. Louis, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Anaheim at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
Florida at Toronto, 6p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 6p.m.
Winnipeg at Montreal, 6p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 7p.m.
Buffalo at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 8p.m.
Seattle at Edmonton, 8p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Vancouver 4, Carolina 3, SO
Winnipeg 2, Arizona 1

GOLF

LATE SUNDAY:
PGA TOUR SONY OPEN HAWAII
4th of 4 rounds, Waialae Country Club,Honolulu, 7,044 yards; Par: 70

262 (-18)	**$1,422,000**
Si Woo Kim (500)	67-67-64-64
263 (-17)	**$861,100**
Hayden Buckley (300)	67-64-64-68
265 (-15)	**$545,100**
Chris Kirk (190)	64-65-68-68
266 (-14)	**$332,458**
David Lipsky (115)	65-66-66-69
Andrew Putnam (115)	70-66-62-68
Ben Taylor (115)	66-66-65-69
267 (-13)	**$231,865**
Aaron Baddeley (80)	67-70-65-65
Matt Kuchar (80)	70-67-64-66
Nate Lashley (80)	69-65-65-68
Maverick McNealy (80)	66-67-67-67
Nick Taylor (80)	70-68-62-67
268 (-12)	**$138,908**
Byeong Hun An (54)	70-65-66-67
Corey Conners (54)	69-66-68-65
Nicolas Echavarria (54)	69-69-65-65
Austin Eckroat (54)	66-66-68-68
Ben Griffin (54)	65-68-67-68
Seonghyeon Kim (54)	65-67-68-68
Taylor Montgomery (54)	64-66-70-68
Andrew Novak (54)	66-70-67-65
J.J. Spaun (54)	66-64-71-67
269 (-11)	**$77,025**
Stewart Cink (37)	66-68-67-68
Brice Garnett (37)	70-67-68-64
J.T. Poston (37)	67-66-67-69
Adam Scott (37)	69-66-67-67
Brendon Todd (37)	65-68-71-65
Kevin Yu (37)	67-66-68-68
Carl Yuan (37)	70-65-66-68
270 (-10)	**$55,300**
Will Gordon (29)	69-67-63-71
Harry Hall (29)	66-69-66-69
Stephan Jaeger (29)	67-66-69-68
Kyoung-Hoon Lee (29)	69-67-65-69
271 (-9)	**$41,387**
Tyson Alexander (20)	68-69-65-69
Cameron Davis (20)	66-70-68-67
Brian Harman (20)	67-69-70-65
Russell Henley (20)	67-69-67-68
Ben Martin (20)	68-68-67-68
Denny McCarthy (20)	65-68-68-70
Ryan Palmer (20)	71-67-68-65
Doc Redman (20)	67-68-67-69
Michael Thompson (20)	69-65-69-68

NFL PLAYOFFS

WILD-CARD ROUND
SATURDAY, JAN. 14
San Francisco 41, Seattle 32
Jacksonville 31, L.A. Chargers 30

SUNDAY, JAN. 15
Buffalo 34, Miami 31
N.Y. Giants 31, Minnesota 27
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 17

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas 31, Tampa Bay 14

DIVISIONAL ROUND
SATURDAY' GAMES
Jacksonville (10-8) at Kansas City (14-3), 3:30 p.m. (NBC)
N.Y. Giants (10-7-1) at Philadelphia (14-3), 7:15 p.m. (FOX)

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Cincinnati (13-4) at Buffalo (14-3), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Dallas (13-5) at San Francisco (14-4), 5:30 p.m. (FOX)

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
SUNDAY, JAN. 29
x-AFC winners, 2:05 p.m. x-Kansas City vs. Buffalo would be played in Atlanta
NFC winners, 5:30p.m. (FOX)

SUPER BOWL LVII
Sunday, Feb. 12,
State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.
Conference final winners, 5:30p.m.

LATE SUNDAY:
CINCINNATI 24, BALTIMORE 17

Baltimore	**0**	**10**	**7**	**0**	**—**	**17**
Cincinnati	**3**	**6**	**8**	**7**	**—**	**24**

First Quarter
Cin: FG McPherson 39, 8:22.
Second Quarter
Cin: Chase 7pass from Burrow (kick failed), 14:56.
Bal: Dobbins 2pass from Huntley (Tucker kick), 4:53.
Bal: FG Tucker 22, :07.
Third Quarter
Cin: Burrow 1run (Higgins pass from Burrow), 5:02.
Bal: Robinson 41pass from Huntley (Tucker kick), 2:13.
Fourth Quarter
Cin: Hubbard 98fumble return (McPherson kick), 11:39. **A:** 66,399.

TEAM STATS	BAL	CIN
First downs	23	18
Third down efficiency	3-11	7-13
Fourth down efficiency	2/3	0-0
Total net yards	364	234
Rushes-yards	35-155	18-51
Passing	209	183
Punt returns	2-26	2-9
Kickoff returns	3-65	2-42
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-att-int	17-29-1	23-32-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-17	4-26
Punts	3-47.333	3-50.333
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-yards	4-36	7-42
Time of possession	32:26	27:34

RUSHING: Bal, Dobbins 13-62, Huntley 9-54, Edwards 12-39, Andrews 1-0. Cin, Mixon 11-39, Burrow 5-9, Perine 2-3.
PASSING: Baltimore, Huntley 17-29-1-226. Cincinnati, Burrow 23-32-0-209.
RECEIVING: Baltimore, Andrews 5-73, Dobbins 4-43, Robinson 2-49, Oliver 2-26, Hill 2-10, Edwards 1-13, Watkins 1-12. Cincinnati, Chase 9-84, Hurst 4-45, Higgins 4-37, Boyd 3-26, Mixon 3-17.
INTERCEPTION: Cin, Davis-Gaither 1-0.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Bal, Humphrey 6-0-0, Bowser 2-1-1, Oweh 2-0-1, Houston 1-0-1. Cin, Bates 8-1-0, B.Hill 4-1-1, Hilton 2-0-1.

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Arsenal	18	15	2	1	42	14	47
Man City	18	12	3	3	46	18	39
Newcastle	19	10	8	1	33	11	38
Man United	18	12	2	4	29	21	38
Tottenham	19	10	3	6	37	27	33
Fulham	20	9	4	7	32	29	31
Brighton	18	9	3	6	35	25	30
Brentford	19	7	8	4	32	28	29
Liverpool	18	8	4	6	34	25	28
Chelsea	19	8	4	7	22	21	28
Aston Villa	19	7	4	8	22	27	25
Crystal Palace	18	6	4	8	17	26	22
Notting. Forest	19	5	5	9	15	34	20
Leeds	18	4	5	9	26	33	17
Leicester	19	5	2	12	26	33	17
Wolverhampton	19	4	5	10	12	27	17
Bournemouth	19	4	4	11	18	41	16
West Ham	19	4	3	12	15	25	15
Everton	19	3	6	10	15	26	15
Southampton	19	4	3	12	17	34	15

WEDNESDAY'S MATCH
Crystal Palace vs. Man United, 2p.m.

THURSDAY'S MATCH
Man City vs. Tottenham, 2p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Liverpool vs. Chelsea, 6:30a.m.
Bournemouth vs. Notting. Forest, 9 a.m.
Leicester vs. Brighton, 9a.m.
Southampton vs. Aston Villa, 9a.m.
West Ham vs. Everton, 9a.m.
Crystal Palace vs. Newcastle, 11:30a.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Leeds vs. Brentford, 8a.m.
Man City vs. Wolverhampton, 8a.m.
Arsenal vs. Man United, 10:30a.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 23
Fulham vs. Tottenham, 2p.m.

ODDS

NBA			TUESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
at Milwaukee	off	(off)	Toronto
Brooklyn	5½	(234½)	at San Antonio
at Denver	8½	(233½)	Portland
at LA Clippers	off	(off)	Philadelphia

NHL			TUESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**	**Line**
at Toronto	-300	Florida	+250
at Montreal	-105	Winnipeg	-115
at Washington	-107	Minnesota	-103
at Philadelphia	+100	Anaheim	-110
at Nashville	-105	Columbus	-115
at Chicago	+106	Buffalo	-117
at Arizona	-116	Detroit	-127
at Edmonton	+111	Seattle	-122

COLLEGE BASKETBALL		TUESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**
Mississippi	7	at South Carolina
at Buffalo	7	Bowlin Green
at Miami (OH)	6	Northern Illinois
at Dayton	11½	Davidson
at VMI	8	UMass
at Valparaiso	3	Illinois-Chicago
at Notre Dame	5½	Florida State
Akron	7½	at Cent. Michigan
at North Carolina	17	Boston College
NC State	5½	at Georgia Tech
at Richmond	8½	Rhode Island
Tennessee	61.2	at Mississippi St.
Houston	9½	at Tulane
Kansas	2	at Kansas State
at Iowa State	1½	Texas
Alabama	9½	at Vanderbilt
at Wake Forest	3	at Clemson
at Texas Tech	1½	Baylor
at Kentucky	10	Georgia
at New Mexico	10	San Jose State
at Air Force	3½	Wyoming
at Belmont	5	Murray State
at Utah State	6	UNLV
at Boise State	6½	Nevada
at Wisconson	2	Penn State
at Southern Illinois	17	Evansville
Creighton	6	at Butler
at Toledo	8½	Ohio
Kent State	13½	at E. Michigan
at Ball State	10½	Western Michigan

NFL PLAYOFFS			SATURDAY
FAVORITE	**NOW**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
at Kansas City	8½	(51½)	Jacksonville
at Philadelphia	7½	(48½)	NY Giants
			SUNDAY
at Buffalo	4½	(50½)	Cincinnati

AFC CONFERENCE CHAMPION ODDS

Kansas City	+150	Buffalo	+170
Cincinnati	+400	Jacksonville	+1200

source: bovada.lv
For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
No. 1 Houston (17-1) did not play. Next: at Tulane, Tuesday.
No. 2 Kansas (16-1) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Kansas St., Tuesday.
No. 3 Purdue (17-1) beat Michigan St. 64-63. Next: at Minnesota, Thursday.
No. 4 Alabama (15-2) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Tuesday.
No. 5 UCLA (16-2) did not play. Next: at Arizona St., Thursday.
No. 6 Gonzaga (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday.
No. 7 Texas (15-2) did not play. Next: at No. 12 Iowa St., Tuesday.
No. 8 Xavier (15-3) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Wednesday.
No. 9 Tennessee (14-3) did not play. Next: at Mississippi St., Tuesday.
No. 10 Virginia (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Wednesday.
No. 11 Arizona (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Thursday.
No. 12 Iowa St. (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Tuesday.
No. 13 Kansas St. (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 Kansas, Tuesday.
No. 14 TCU (14-3) did not play. Next: at West Virginia, Wednesday.
No. 15 UConn (15-4) did not play. Next: at Seton Hall, Wednesday.
No. 16 Auburn (14-3) did not play. Next: at LSU, Wednesday.
No. 17 Miami (15-3) beat Syracuse 82-78. Next: at Duke, Saturday.
No. 18 Charleston (19-1) beat William & Mary 82-54. Next: at Monmouth, Thursday.
No. 19 Clemson (15-3) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Tuesday.
No. 20 Marquette (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Providence, Wednesday.
No. 21 Baylor (12-5) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech, Tuesday.
No. 22 Providence (14-4) did not play. Next: at Marquette, Wednesday.
No. 23 Rutgers (13-5) did not play. Next: at Michigan St., Thursday.
No. 24 Florida Atlantic (17-1) beat Western Kentucky 76-62. Next: at UTSA, Thursday.
No. 25 Arkansas (12-5) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Wednesday.

MONDAY'S SCORES
EAST
Cornell 102, Columbia 85
Dartmouth 60, Harvard 59
Fairleigh Dickinson 65, Stonehill 57
Howard 89, Morehouse 65
Lehigh 74, Loyola (Md.) 70
Northeastern 59, Delaware 58
Princeton 72, Penn 60
Sacred Heart 54, St. Francis (Pa.) 51
Saint Joseph's 71, La Salle 59
St. Francis (NY) 73, LIU 66
Towson 68, Hofstra 47
UMBC 87, Hartford 62
Villanova 77, Georgetown 73
Wagner 62, Merrimack 57
Yale 81, Brown 78
SOUTH
Alabama St. 69, Alabama A&M 61
Ark.-Pine Bluff 77, Bethune-Cookman 71
Florida A&M 60, MVSU 59
Geo. Washington 78, George Mason 75
NC A&T 79, Hampton 67
North Texas 64, FIU 57
UNC-Wilmington 62, Elon 54
UTEP 60, Charlotte 58
MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 72, Fort Wayne 60
Illinois 78, Minnesota 60
SOUTHWEST
Rice 88, UTSA 81, OT
E. Washington 64, Montana 57
UC Davis 78, UC San Diego 70
UC Riverside 83, Cal Poly 78, OT
UC Santa Barbara 73, UC Irvine 65

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE
No. 1 South Carolina (18-0) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday.
No. 2 Ohio St. (18-0) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern, Thursday.
No. 3 LSU (18-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Thursday.
No. 4 Stanford (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Utah, Friday.
No. 5 UConn (15-2) did not play. Next: at Seton Hall, Tuesday.
No. 6 Indiana (16-1) did not play. Next: at Illinois, Wednesday.
No. 7 Notre Dame (14-2) did not play. Next: at Clemson, Thursday.
No. 8 Utah (15-1) did not play. Next: at No. 4 Stanford, Friday.
No. 9 UCLA (15-3) did not play. Next: at Washington, Friday.
No. 10 Iowa (14-4) did not play. Next: at Michigan St., Wednesday.
No. 11 Maryland (14-4) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Thursday.
No. 12 Virginia Tech (14-3) did no play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday.
No. 13 Duke (16-1) did not play. Next: at No. 17 North Carolina, Thursday.
No. 14 Michigan (15-3) did not play. Next: at Rutgers, Thursday.
No. 15 Oklahoma (14-2) did not play. Next: at TCU, Wednesday.
No. 16 Gonzaga (17-2) did not play. Next: at Pacific, Thursday.
No. 17 North Carolina (12-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Duke, Thursday.
No. 18 Iowa State (11-4) did not play Next: vs. Oklahoma St., Wednesday.
No. 19 Arizona (14-4) did not play. Next: at Arizona State, Sunday.
No. 20 NC State (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Thursday.
No. 21 Illinois (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Wednesday.
No. 22 Villanova (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Tuesday.
No. 23 Oregon (13-5) did not play, OT. Next: at Oregon State, Friday.
No. 24 Colorado (14-3) did not play. Next: at California, Friday.
No. 25 Texas (13-5) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech, Wednesday.

THE MEN'S AP TOP 25

RK. SCHOOL	W-L	PTS	LW	CP
1. Houston (34)	17-1	1,460	1	1
2. Kansas (23)	16-1	1,446	2	2
3. Purdue (3)	16-1	1,382	3	3
4. Alabama	15-2	1,347	4	4
5. UCLA	16-2	1,237	7	5
6. Gonzaga	16-3	1,178	8	6
7. Texas	15-2	1,122	10	7
8. Xavier	15-3	1,047	12	8
9. Tennessee	14-3	1,019	5	9
10. Virginia	13-3	926	13	10
11. Arizona	15-3	838	9	11
12. Iowa State	13-3	795	14	12
13. Kansas State	15-2	771	11	15
14. TCU	14-3	753	17	13
15. UConn	15-4	668	6	14
16. Auburn	14-3	553	21	17
17. Miami	14-3	487	16	16
18. Charleston	18-1	351	22	21
19. Clemson	15-3	339	--	19
20. Marquette	14-5	306	25	18
21. Baylor	12-5	267	--	22
22. Providence	14-4	262	19	20
23. Rutgers	13-5	131	--	--
24. Florida Atlantic	16-1	126	--	--
25. Arkansas	12-5	115	15	25

Others: N.C. State 111, Saint Mary's 106, Arizona State 79, New Mexico 67, Illinois 61, San Diego State 44, Michigan State 29, Duke 24, Wisconsin 14, Creighton 9, Kent State 8, Boise State 6, Texas A&M 5, Ohio State 3, Missouri 3, Iowa 2, VCU 2, North Carolina 1.
CP-coaches poll

THE WOMEN'S AP TOP 25

RK. SCHOOL	W-L	PTS	LW
1. South Carolina (28)	18-0	700	1
2. Ohio State	18-0	670	3
3. LSU	18-0	604	5
4. Stanford	17-2	601	2
5. UConn	15-2	600	4
6. Indiana	16-1	586	6
7. Notre Dame	14-2	546	7
8. Utah	15-1	477	10
9. UCLA	15-3	428	8
10. Iowa	14-4	414	12
11. Maryland	14-4	413	9
12. Virginia Tech	14-3	391	13
13. Duke	16-1	361	16
14. Michigan	15-3	341	17
15. Oklahoma	14-2	304	19
16. Gonzaga	17-2	249	20
17. North Carolina	12-5	237	22
18. Iowa State	11-4	205	15
19. Arizona	14-4	185	14
20. N.C. State	13-5	139	11
21. Illinois	15-3	120	24
22. Villanova	16-3	94	25
23. Oregon	13-5	75	21
24. Colorado	14-3	65	-
25. Texas	13-5	62	-

Others: Baylor 51, Middle Tennessee 39, Arkansas 34, South Florida 24, Miami (FL) 23, Florida State 23, Tennessee 19, USC 7, Creighton 4, Louisville 4, Kansas 3, West Virginia 2.
(first-place-votes)

TENNIS

111TH AUSTRALIAN OPEN
Monday at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, hardcourt, outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, FIRST ROUND
#1Rafael Nadal d. Jack Draper, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1.
#3Stefanos Tsitsipas d. Quentin Halys, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(6).
#6Felix Auger-Aliassime d. Vasek Pospisil, 1-6, 7-6(4), 7-6(3), 6-3.
#7Daniil Medvedev d. Marcos Giron, 6-0, 6-1, 6-2.
#10Hubert Hurkacz d. Pedro Martinez, 7-6(1), 6-2, 6-2.
#11Cameron Norrie d. Luca van Assche, 7-6(3), 6-0, 6-3.
#15Jannik Sinner d. Kyle Edmund, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2.
#16Frances Tiafoe d. Daniel Altmaier, 6-3, 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-6(6).
Lloyd Harris d. #17 Lorenzo Musetti, 6-4, 6-1, 6-7(0), 2-6, 7-6(4).
#18Karen Khachanov d. Bernabe Zapata Miralles, 7-6(3), 6-2, 6-0.
#20Denis Shapovalov d. Dusan Lajovic, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Jiri Lehecka d. #21Borna Coric, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.
#28Francisco Cerundolo d. Guido Pella, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.
#29Sebastian Korda d. Cristian Garin, Chile, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2.
#31Yoshihito Nishioka d. Mikael Ymer, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5.
#32 Botic Van de Zandschulp d. Ilya Ivashka, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Yosuke Watanuki d. Arthur Rinderknech, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.
Juncheng Shang d. Oscar Otte, 6-2, 6-4, 6-7(2), 7-5.
Tomas Martin Etcheverry d. Gregoire Barrere, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
Tallon Griekspoor d. Pavel Kotov, 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-3.
Corentin Moutet d. Yibing Wu, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.
Mackenzie McDonald, d. Brandon Nakashima, 7-6(5), 7-6(1), 1-6, 6-7(10), 6-4.
Jason Kubler d. Sebastian Baez, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
Dalibor Svrcina d. Jaume Munar, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
Taro Daniel d. Ernesto Escobedo, 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Lorenzo Sonego d. Nuno Borges, 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-1.
Christopher Eubanks d. Kwon Soon Woo, 6-3, 6-7(1), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.
John Millman d. Marc-Andrea Huesler, 6-7(8), 7-5, 6-7(2), 6-2, 6-3.
Marton Fucsovics d. Federico Coria, 4-6, 7-5, 2-6, 7-6(6), 6-2.
Alex Molcan d. Stan Wawrinka, 6-7(3), 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(2), 6-4.
Constant Lestienne d. Thiago Monteiro, 6-3, 7-6(2), 6-3.
Rinky Hijikata d. Yannick Hanfmann, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3.
EARLY TUESDAY, FIRST ROUND
#5Andrey Rublev d. Dominic Thiem, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
#8Taylor Fritz vs. Nikoloz Basilashvili, late
#9Holger Rune vs. Filip Krajinovic, late
#14Pablo Carreno Busta vs. Pedro Cachin, late
#23Diego Schwartzman vs. Oleksii Krutykh, late
#25Daniel Evans vs. Facundo Bagnis, late
#26Miomir Kecmanovic vs. Nicolas Jarry, late
#27Grigor Dimitrov d. Aslan Karatsev, 7-6(3), 7-5, 6-2.
Alexander Bublik vs. #30 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, late
Jeremy Chardy vs. Daniel Elahi Galan, late
Laslo Djere d. Zizou Bergs, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Benjamin Bonzi vs. Mattia Bellucci, late
Jeffrey John Wolf vs. Jordan Thompson, late
Maxime Cressy vs. Albert Ramos-Vinolas, late
Ben Shelton vs. Zhizhen Zhang, late
Emil Ruusuvuori vs. Max Purcell, late

WOMEN'S SINGLES, FIRST ROUND
#1Iga Swiatek d. Jule Niemeier, 6-4, 7-5.
#3 Jessica Pegula d. Jaqueline Adina Cristian, 6-0, 6-1.
#6Maria Sakkari d. Yuan Yue, 6-1, 6-4.
#7Coco Gauff d. Katerina Siniakova, 6-1, 6-4.
#10 Madison Keys d. Anna Blinkova, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.
#13Danielle Collins d. Anna Kalinskaya, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.
#15Petra Kvitova d. Alison van Uytvanck, 7-6(3), 6-2.
#17 Jelena Ostapenko d. Dayana Yastremska, 6-4, 6-2.
#20Barbora Krejcikova d. Sara Bejlek, 6-3, 6-1.
#22Elena Rybakina d. Elisabetta Cocciaretto, 7-5, 6-3.
#24Victoria Azarenka d. Sofia Kenin, 6-4, 7-6(3).
Bianca Andreescu d. #25Marie Bouzkova, 6-2, 6-4.
Marta Kostyuk d. #28 Amanda Anisimova, 6-3, 6-4.
#29 Zheng Qinwen d. Dalma Galfi, 6-0, 6-2.
#32Jil Teichmann d. Harriet Dart, 7-5, 6-1.
Olivia Gadecki d. Polina Kudermetova, 7-5, 6-1.
Emma Raducanu d. Tamara Korpatsch, 6-3, 6-2.
Cristina Bucsa d. Eva Lys, 2-6, 6-0, 6-2.
Diana Shnaider d. Kristina Kucova, 7-6(6), 7-5.
Clara Burel d. Talia Gibson, 6-3, 6-4.
Bernarda Pera d. Moyuka Uchijima, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.
Karolina Muchova d. Lesia Tsurenko, 6-2, 6-1.
Anhelina Kalinina d. CoCo Vandeweghe, 6-3, 6-1.
Aliaksandra Sasnovich d. Brenda Fruhvirtova, 7-5, 6-2.
Anna Bondar d. Ana Bogdan, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.
Camila Osorio d. Panna Udvardy, 6-4, 6-1.
Kateryna Baindl d. Kamilla Rakhimova, 7-5, 6-7(8), 6-1.
Caty McNally, d. Laura Pigossi, 7-5, 6-1.
Nadia Podoroska d. Leolia Jeanjean, 6-0, 6-3.
Zhu Lin d. Rebecca Marino, 6-2, 6-4.
Kaja Juvan d. Selena Janicijevic, 7-5, 6-1.
Wang Xinyu d. Storm Sanders, 7-6(2), 6-4.
EARLY TUESDAY, FIRST ROUND
#4Caroline Garcia d. Katherine Sebov, 6-3, 6-0.
#5Aryna Sabalenka d. Tereza Martincova, 6-1, 6-4.
#16Anett Kontaveit vs. Julia Grabher, late
#18Liudmila Samsonova vs. Jasmine Paolini, late
#19Ekaterina Alexandrova d. Ysaline Bonaventure, 6-2, 6-1.
Anna Karolina Schmiedlova d. #21Martina

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

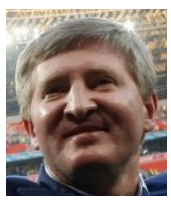
No surprise: Stroud will enter draft

Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud will give up a final year of eligibility to enter the NFL draft, in which he's expected to be a top-five pick. The two-year starter for the Buckeyes announced his decision, which had been expected, on social media on Monday, the last day eligible players can declare for the draft. "This process has been difficult, and the decision, one of the hardest I've ever had to make," Stroud said in the statement. "As a kid, I dreamed of playing football at the highest level, and after much prayer, I've made the decision that it's time to turn those dreams into a reality." Stroud led the Buckeyes to back-to-back 11-2 seasons but lost to Michigan twice. Ohio State made it to the College Football Playoff this past season but lost to eventual national champion Georgia 42-41 in a semifinal, a game in which Stroud threw four TD passes. The 21-year-old was a Heisman Trophy finalist in both seasons. He amassed more than 8,000 passing yards and threw 85 TDs. He's the holder of 16 school offensive records. Kyle McCord and Devin Brown are expected to compete for the starting QB job in 2023.

4-time WNBA champ Moore retires

Maya Moore knew it was time to officially end her basketball career — four years after stepping away. The Lynx star left the WNBA in 2019 to help her now-husband Jonathan Irons win his release from prison by getting his 50-year sentence overturned in 2020. Irons married Moore soon after his release and the couple had their first child, Jonathan Jr., in February. She announced her decision to retire Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America." The 33-year-old Moore won four WNBA championships with the Lynx, two Olympic gold medals with USA Basketball and two NCAA titles with UConn. She will be eligible for the Naismith Hall of Fame next year since she stopped playing four years ago, one of the rare athletes to leave their sport in the prime of their career. Moore was drafted No. 1 by the Lynx in 2011, winning the rookie of the year award and going on to average 18.4 points, 5.9 rebounds and 1.7 steals over eight seasons. She was the league's MVP in 2014 and the only player in WNBA history with four 40-plus point games.

Shakhtar owner steps up for Ukraine



Shakhtar Donetsk owner Rinat Akhmetov pledged Monday to give $25 million to help the families of soldiers who defended the city of Mariupol when it was attacked by the Russian military. "The money will be used to cover different needs — from providing medical and prosthetic treatment and psychological support to meeting specific requests," Akhmetov said in a statement on Shakhtar's website. During the fall of Mariupol, the fighters who held out for months under relentless bombardment inside the Azovstal steel plant — which is owned by Akhmetov's Metinvest — became a symbol of Ukrainian resistance in the early months of the invasion. "Their acts of bravery are unparalleled in the modern history," Akhmetov, above, said launching the "Heart of Azovstal" project. Shakhtar has been exiled from Donetsk since 2014 during a conflict with pro-Russian forces and then the war since last February. The showpiece stadium has been damaged but not destroyed, and the Ukrainian Premier League is now being played in Kyiv and the west of the country. *—Associated Press*

Sam Hubbard returns a fumble 98 yards for a TD late in the Bengals' 24-17 win over the Ravens on Sunday. **DYLAN BUELL/GETTY**

ON THE NFL PLAYOFFS

Close calls behind them

Bengals-Bills rematch set after pair of shaky wins

By Rob Maadi
Associated Press

The Bengals-Bills rematch coming next week almost didn't happen.

Both teams squeaked past undermanned opponents Sunday, beating backup quarterbacks to advance to the AFC divisional round.

First, the Bills blew a 17-0 lead against the Dolphins and had to rally for a 34-31 victory. Then, the Bengals were 1 yard from trailing the Ravens in the fourth quarter before Sam Hubbard returned a fumble 98 yards for the decisive score, and the defending AFC champions barely held on for a 24-17 victory.

This time, the Bengals will visit Buffalo. They met in Cincinnati on Jan. 2, when the game was stopped after Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed in the first quarter and needed to be resuscitated on the field. Hamlin is home following a remarkable recovery.

The Bills struggled against the seventh-seeded Dolphins, a 13 ½-point underdog. The Dolphins, who were down to rookie third-string quarterback Skylar Thompson, took a 24-20 lead in the third quarter when Josh Allen was strip-sacked and Zach Sieler scored on a 5-yard return.

But Thompson, a seventh-round pick starting his third game because Tua Tagovailoa and Teddy Bridgewater are injured, threw an interception on third-and-19 from his 8 that led to a short field and a go-ahead score for the Bills.

"It was a bad decision on my part," said Thompson, who was 18 of 45 for 220 yards with one TD and two interceptions. "Just got to know the situation we're in there. ... I just got to understand the situation there and just take yards and play field position there and not force something. That one hurts. But just got to learn from it."

Allen and the Bills were sloppy and out of rhythm despite racking up 423 yards. Allen threw two picks that led to 11 points before his fumble led to another touchdown.

"At the end of the day, all that matters is winning the game," Allen said. "If it's by one or by 100, these are one-week seasons now. Everything you got. It's win or go home."

The Bills have to play much better to beat the Bengals. Same goes for the Bengals.

The Bengals fell behind the Ravens 10-9 after leading 9-0. They were fortunate it wasn't 14-9 at halftime because the Ravens had a first down at the 3 and settled for a field goal.

With the score tied at 17 in the fourth quarter, the Ravens drove to the Bengals 1. But QB Tyler Huntley, filling in for the injured Lamar Jackson, lost the ball when he held it out and leaped at the goal line.

The Ravens had players behind Huntley in the backfield ready to push him into the end zone, but the third-year pro decided to try to jump in.

"We just didn't execute it right," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "Tyler went over the top. It was designed for him to go low."

The Bengals couldn't generate anything on offense the rest of the game, punting three times and totaling 19 yards, allowing the Ravens to stay in it.

Huntley had the Ravens driving at the Bengals 17 in the final minute before a holding penalty, and incompletions set up a fourth-and-20 from the 27. Huntley's desperation pass into the end zone bounced off Ravens wideout James Proche's hands.

"Our defense really carried us in the fourth quarter," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said.

The Bengals will need Joe Burrow and the offense to get back on track after putting up just 234 total yards to have a shot against the Bills.

The Bengals have won nine in a row, while the Bills have an eight-game winning streak. One streak will end next Sunday.

While the Dolphins and Ravens couldn't pull off upsets, Daniel Jones and the Giants had the right stuff against the Vikings.

The nine-win Giants knocked off the 13-win Vikings 31-24 behind an outstanding performance from Jones, who threw for 301 yards and two TDs in his playoff debut. The Giants move on to face the top-seeded Eagles.

After Brock Purdy and the 49ers routed the Seahawks to kick off wild-card weekend, the next four games were decided by one score.

The 49ers will face the Cowboys, who routed the NFC South champion Buccaneers 31-14 on Monday night in Tampa, Florida.

DIVISIONAL ROUND

SATURDAY
Jaguars at Chiefs, 3:30 p.m., NBC-5
Giants at Eagles, 7:15 p.m., Fox-32

SUNDAY
Bengals at Bills, 2 p.m., CBS-2
Cowboys at 49ers, 5:30 p.m., Fox-32

NFL PLAYOFFS

Rookies making impact for Chiefs

By Dave Skretta | Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce have been in this situation before, ready to embark on a postseason run that the last four years has landed the Chiefs in the AFC championship game and twice ended in the Super Bowl.

So it's easy to assume that the rest of the Chiefs are a hardened bunch of playoff veterans.

Turns out they're not.

Only the three-win Bears had more games played by rookies this season, and only four teams had more first-year players start games than the Chiefs.

Chiefs rookie RB Isiah Pacheco has 830 rushing yards and five touchdowns despite not starting the first six games. **AP FILE**

That includes defensive end George Karlaftis, who started all 17 of his games, and cornerback Trent McDuffie, who started each of the 11 games for which he was healthy.

In fact, each of the Chiefs' 10 draft picks was active for at least one game. Eight of them started at least once.

"I mean, it starts with the organization and the coaches. They've set a culture here," explained Mahomes, who at 27 years old is suddenly among the elder statesmen of the franchise.

"We have a lot of veterans on our team, and when you bring in new guys, you just show them by the way you act."

Mahomes did his part with wide receiver Skyy Moore, inviting him to voluntary offseason workouts at his home in Texas. Moore responded by catching 22 passes for 250 yards while also contributing on special teams.

Defensive end Frank Clark likewise took Karlaftis under his wing in training camp, showing the first-round pick the nuances of the game. Karlaftis had six sacks, trailing only Aidan Hutchinson and James Houston for tops among rookies.

And safety Justin Reid was instrumental in helping along a group of defensive backs that includes four rookie cornerbacks and a rookie safety, all of whom have been on the field at the same time.

Jaylen Watson had a 99-yard pick six that helped the Chiefs beat the Chargers in Week 2, and McDuffie, Josh Williams, Nazeeh Johnson and Bryan Cook all have had moments.

The fact that they were pressed into service so often means that, at least as far as Reid is concerned, they're no longer rookies at all as they prepare to face the Jaguars on Saturday in the divisional round of the playoffs.

"They've had enough experience. They've had enough games under their belt," Reid said. "They're first-year players but that title — 'rookie' — we really want to throw that out the window because of the experience and snaps under their belt."

The top-seeded Chiefs had 154 games played by their rookie class this season. Sixty-one times a rookie was in the starting lineup.

"I just went in yesterday again and spoke to the group and just let them know, 'Hey, you're at a point in the season that you're not rookies any longer,' " added Chiefs defensive backs coach Dave Merritt.

"The guys have got to understand that it's a faceless opponent every time. ... Technique-wise, you have to make sure you're executing, and hopefully throughout the season you continue to get better. And that's what they've done."

It's not just on defense where Chiefs rookies have shined either.

Moore was the Chiefs' most-touted offensive draft pick, and he's been helpful despite fumble problems that got him pulled from punt return duties.

But the breakout star has been seventh-round pick Isiah Pacheco, who has seemingly spent every game making every team pay for passing on him in those first six rounds.

Despite not starting the first six games, Pacheco has run for 830 yards and five touchdowns, averaging nearly 5 yards per carry. That's the fifth-best yardage total among rookies and his TD total is tied for second among first-year players.

The most impressive thing about Pacheco, and the rest of the Chiefs rookies, might be that they keep getting better.

"I'm not a big rookie wall believer-type deal. It's professional football. This is your job," Chiefs running backs coach Greg Lewis said with a shake of his head. "(Pacheco) has been playing football, as all the other rookies have too, their whole life."

Never with these stakes, though. Mahomes was able to deal with the pressure; he's never lost in the divisional round of the playoffs as an NFL starter.

So have other players that have helped the Chiefs reach four straight AFC title games.

Will their latest — and perhaps largest — group of first-year contributors manage to do the same?

"I think you've seen as the seasons gone on, those rookies are getting better," Mahomes said with a smile, "and then the veterans are starting to hit the right moment going into the playoffs."